

**The Society for the Study of the
Indigenous Languages of the Americas**

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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106.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Expediting abstracts for the November meeting

By now, most SSILA members should have received the January issue of the Newsletter, with the call for papers and submission forms for this year's winter meeting with the AAA in San Francisco, November 15-19.

We apologize for the short deadline for submitting abstracts to the SSILA program committee (March 17). Realizing that this may be an especially difficult deadline to meet from outside the US, the program committee is willing to accept faxed or e-mail submissions from non-US residents, as well as from US members who may need this service for extraordinary reasons. If e-mail is used, it would be best to download the AAA's submission forms from their website (<http://www.aaanet.org>) and to send us the completed forms as a word-processed e-mail attachment (but please do not use Word Perfect!). However, data may be submitted as a plain e-mail file, and the program committee will make sure that the data submitted is entered on the correct AAA forms before these are sent to the AAA on April 1, retyping and formatting as necessary. However, please note that members who submit abstracts to the SSILA program committee by fax or e-mail must still make arrangements to pay the AAA's advance registration fees. Since this can be done by credit card, we recommend faxing the advance registration form to us with the credit card data completed. E-mail submission of such information is not advised for security reasons. Please use the following number & address for faxed or e-mail submissions:

Fax: 707-677-1676

E-mail: golla@ssila.org

SSILA Website to be moved soon

The semi-incapacitated SSILA website will be moved to a new server this coming week. The disabled search functions will be restored as soon as possible after the move. Please bear with us.

106.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Session on Mayan linguistics and script

- From Maximilian Viatori (amaximus@hotmail.com) 25 Feb 2000:

Martha Macri and I would like to invite interested SSILA members to submit abstracts for a session on Mayan historical linguistics and hieroglyphic scripts that we are organizing for the SSILA/AAA meetings in San Francisco this November. Ideally we will have 8 papers presented and discussed in the session, although if the demand necessitates it we may include more papers. We would like to have your abstracts by March 10, along with your conference fee and form, so that we may submit them together with the other presenters.

We look forward to your submissions. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

~Maximilian Viatori
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Mis-identifying the colonized

- From Timothy Dunnigan (dunni001@maroon.tc.umn.edu) 14 Feb 2000:

A colleague has asked for one or two references dealing with indigenous peoples of the Americas that would help him document how colonizers tend to mis-identify the colonized. Peter Wells is a well-known archaeologist who studies “Iron-Age” cultures of Europe, particularly the ancient “German” tribes. The ethnic labels used by Caesar, Tacitus and other early chroniclers tend to be accepted without question by those who use their works today. His own researches indicate that the complex cultural divisions that existed in ancient times are inaccurately reflected in the exogenous ethnic designations.

I told him about the naming problems that arose when Europeans attempted to record the various cultures and languages of the Americas, and how indigenous peoples are now attempting to reclaim names and identities that were largely excluded from the history books. He knew what I was talking about because he had already read Berkhofer, and had assigned some of his writings in a course. I mentioned the “synonymy” sections in the Handbook of North American Indians that appear at the end of chapters on individual tribes, but I was wondering whether readers of the SSILA Bulletin might know of a more general discussion of this problem, such as for Central Mexico where pejorative names used by Tlaxcalans and Aztecs names were imposed on neighboring groups by the Spanish. I know the common linguistic folklore about this phenomenon, but can anyone suggest specific articles or books?

Thanks for any help you can offer. Replies can be addressed to me or directly to Peter at <wells001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

~Tim Dunnigan
University of Minnesota
(dunni001@maroon.tc.umn.edu)

LA Times story

- From Pila Wilson (pila_w@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu) 13 Feb 2000:

Aloha! I just read my most recent SSILA Bulletin and was surprised to see that you didn't have anything in it about the January 25th article on the front page of the LA Times on Native American language endangerment and revitalization. I will pass on a copy to you by e-mail.

~Bill Wilson
University of Hawai'i at Hilo
(pila_w@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu)

[The story Bill refers to was one of a series of feature articles on language that the Los Angeles Times ran in late January. (We missed the series when it first appeared because the LA Times is not sold in our remote corner of northern California.) The Jan. 25 story, titled "The Struggle to Save Dying Languages", laid out the basic facts and figures and described some of the more successful indigenous language retention projects in California and elsewhere in the US -- including Bill's Aha Punano Leo immersion schools in Hawai'i. We will have a note on the article in the "Media Watch" section of the April SSILA Newsletter. In the meantime the full text can be downloaded (for a small charge) from the LA Times website (<http://www.latimes.com/>). --VG]

Information on Pachamama needed

- From Alicia Weiser (alicia_weiser@intercon.net.ve) 20 Feb 2000:

En los momentos actuales estoy investigando el tema de las PACHAMAMA y me ha sido difícil encontrar información. Si tiene bibliografía e imágenes le agradezco su información. Soy Psicóloga, Terapeuta del Lenguaje y Artista Plástico y estoy desarrollando el tema sobre sincretismo. Gracias anticipadas.

~Alicia Weiser
(alicia_weiser@intercon.net.ve)

Polyglot version of Polish poetry by Mickiewicz

- From Zbignien Wolkowski (zww@ccr.jussieu.fr) 22 Feb 2000:

As I explained in an earlier message, I am preparing for publication a polyglot compilation of 20 lines of the best known poetry in Polish literature, by Mickiewicz. I have received 70 translations so far. I wish to contact motivated and competent linguists to expand the project into missing languages, and am especially interested in contacting persons willing to help with translations into Native American languages. The only currently present is Quechua. For those unable to work with the original, on line literal translations are available in French and English. You may also wish to visit my website: <http://www.ccr.jussieu.fr/mickiewicz.200>
Thank you for your help.

~Dr. Z. W. Wolkowski
University of Paris, France
(zww@ccr.jussieu.fr)

106.2 INDIAN LANGUAGES TO BE INCORPORATED INTO COMPUTER GAME

Heriberto Avelino (avelino@ucla.edu) writes us that, a few weeks ago, he received a series of messages from some computer-game developers in Los Angeles who are working on an update of “Age of Empires II”, an “educational, historical CD-ROM computer game.” Marketed by Microsoft, this enormously popular “real-time strategy” game combines “stunning graphics” with the “drama and intrigue” of world history from the Fall of Rome through the Middle Ages. According to the game’s official website:

...players are challenged to build their nations into great civilizations and defeat the enemy by making strategic decisions throughout the game. Each of the 13 civilizations represented in “Age of Empires II,” including the Mongols, Celts, Vikings and Japanese, features distinctive attributes, buildings and technologies and a unique combat unit based on its historical counterpart.

In addition, “Age of Empires II” features five campaigns based on the adventures of prominent historical figures, including Joan of Arc, William Wallace and Ghengis Khan, that draw players deeper into the game as they march alongside the hero to victory. In the update that is being prepared, two New World civilizations are being added to the roster: The Aztec Empire and the Classical Maya. Heriberto was contacted to see if he would be interested in recording dialogue in Nahuatl. The developers explained:

Single word statements and commands will occur when the player clicks on a villager, priest, military man or king (one set each for the various cultures). The client is anxious that the pronunciations be historically and linguistically accurate. They are providing us translations with phonetic spellings. That means that, in the case of Nahuatl, it will be Classical Nahuatl that would be spoken. [We think] it important that people native to the country in general, and familiar with Nahuatl specifically (even if it’s only the “modern” version) be utilized for the speaking parts, because that would greatly increase our chances of correct pronunciations. We need one woman and two men for each language. We will have each man do two speaking parts in varying “voices.” Each person would have about twenty (or less) single and double word phrases to utter.

Heriberto turned the job down because he felt that it was not right for a company like Microsoft to use contemporary cultures and languages in combat games. To him, this is far from being an “educational” or “historic” tool. Doubtless, however, the forces of commodification will prevail, and hordes of adolescent gamers around the world will soon be (electronically) crying “Die, vile scum!” in Classical Nahuatl as they hurl their virtual spears at the enemy. (One wonders if the parameters of the game allow for the defeat of Cortez?)

Meanwhile, for the curious, further information on “Age of Empires II” can be found on the web at: <http://www.microsoft.com/games/age2/>

Lest you think this is a small matter, either culturally or commercially, Microsoft has so far shipped over two million copies of “Age of Empires II”, and it sells at a retail price of \$54.95.

106.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

Maya Meetings at Texas (Austin, March 9-18)

The 2000 Maya Meetings at Texas will be held March 9-18 on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. The theme this year will be CENTERING THE UNIVERSE: Core/Periphery Interactions in Mesoamerica.

The Maya Meetings at Texas is a 10-day conference held annually since 1977 (usually the first or second week in March). While retaining the name “Maya Meeting”, the conference now encompasses many areas and ancient cultures of Mesoamerica, and other parts of Native America.

The Meetings will open with the XVIIth Texas Symposium, March 9-10. The Symposium brings together scholars and interested non-professionals to interact creatively and share the most recent insights on and discoveries in Maya and Mesoamerican research. Papers will be presented by Edwin Barnhart, Federico Fahsen, Antonia Foias, Christopher Jones, Grant Jones, Richard Hansen, Peter Harrison, Patricia McAnany, Alfonso Morales, Juan Antonio Valdes, Phil Wanyerka, and others.

The core of the Maya Meetings comprises:

- I. Introducing Maya Glyphs: An introductory public lecture by Peter Mathews of the University of Calgary, on March 10.
- II. The XXIII Linda Schele Forum on Maya Hieroglyphic Writing, March 11-12. This year’s Forum, “Tikal and Its Neighbors: 600 years of Maya History viewed from the center of the Maya Universe” will be presented Nikolai Grube and Simon Martin. The forum will begin with basic, introductory concepts of Maya writing, and proceed by degrees to analysis of the most complex and enigmatic texts.
- III. The XVIIIth Long Workshops will be held March 13-18. The Workshops are divided into a Maya hieroglyphic workshop, a Mixtec codices workshop, and advanced seminar groups. Topics for individual workshop groups vary from year to year. First time attendees will participate in a group in either the Maya or Mixtec workshop at a level corresponding to their experience. Admittance to advanced seminar groups is by application. The Long Workshops will be conducted by an experienced team of experts on Mayan epigraphy and related disciplines. Under the general direction of Professor Tom Jones of Humboldt State University, the workshops are designed to provide practical experience in the analytical methods discussed in the Forum.
- IV. Maya and Advanced Seminar Groups. Each year special groups are formed to investigate the texts, history, and the role of gods and ancestors at various sites. In addition, Kathryn Josserand and Nicholas Hopkins offer a workshop on Classic Maya and Modern Chol Grammar. Ruth Krochock will head groups working on Chichen Itza and other Yucatecan sites. Rex Koontz will organize a group on Xochicalco. Justin Kerr leads a group on Maya Ceramic Texts. Richard Johnson heads a group investigating the Dresden Codex. A workshop lead by Barbara MacLeod and Robert Wald continues research on

Verbs in the inscriptions. John Justeson and Terry Kaufman lead groups on Zapotec Glyphs and the Epi-Olmec La Mojarra Script. Final topics to be announced.

- V. The Mixtec Codex Workshop will continue with Director John Pohl and Assistant Director Robert Williams, with the assistance of Timothy Allbright and Monica Bellas. The workshop is open to all; no prior experience is required.

For further information (including the schedule of fees) contact the Director, Peter Keeler, at Box 3500, Austin, TX 78764-3500 (e-mail: mayameet@ccwf.cc.utexas.edu; tel: 512-471-6292) or visit the Maya Meetings website: <http://www.utexas.edu/cofa/ah/programs/maya/maya.html> Please note that it is NOT necessary to register in advance for any event at the Maya Meetings.

WSCLA-5 (U of Toronto, March 24-26)

- From Nicole Rosen (wscla@chass.utoronto.ca) 24 Feb 2000:

Following is the tentative program for the 5th Workshop on Structure and Constituency of Languages of the Americas (WSCLA-5), to be held at the University of Toronto, March 24-26th, 2000. For more information please e-mail [<wscla@chass.utoronto.ca>](mailto:wscla@chass.utoronto.ca) or visit the conference website at: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/wscla>

Friday March 24

- Donna Gerds & Tom Hukari, "The Halkomelem Double Antipassive: Towards a word-based view of argument structure"
- Carrie Gillon, "Collapsing three morphemes into one: Saanich plural reduplication"
- Jan van Eijk, "Word, clitic and sentence in Lillooet"
- David Beck, "Conventionality and lexical classes"
- Deborah James, Sandra Clarke & Marguerite MacKenzie, "Paths of semantic change in a modal morpheme: The dubitative in Montagnais"
- Invited Speakers - Phil Branigan and Marguerite MacKenzie, "How much Syntax Can You Fit Into a Word? The grammar of verbal agreement in Innu-aimun"
- Benjamin Bruening and Andrea Rackowski, "Configurationality and object shift in Algonquian"
- Norvin Richards, "Some notes on conjunct and independent orders in Wampanoag"
- Marie-Odile Junker, "The role of the Participant Hierarchy in determining word order in East Cree"
- Invited Speaker - Matthew Beach, "Verb Elision and Constituent Structure in Inuit"

Saturday March 25

- George Aaron Broadwell, "On the phonological conditioning of clitic placement in Zapotec"
- Tomio Hirose, "Plains Cree is Head-initial: morphophonological evidence"
- Carrie Dyck, "Defining the word in Cayuga (Iroquoian)"
- Laura Bar-el & Linda Tamburri Watt, "Word internal constituency in Skwxw7mesh (Squamish Salish)"

- Invited Speaker - Kevin Russell, "Words within Words: Matching and mismatching domains in Cree"
- Invited Speaker - Karin Michelson, "The lexical status of utterance-final forms in Oneida"
- Nicole Rosen, "Is a word in French a word in Michif?"
- Sonya Bird, "What is a word? Evidence from a computational approach to Navajo verbal morphology"
- Grazyna Rowicka, "Silent heads and audible dependents: Phonotactic relations in Mohawk and Upper Chehalis"
- Invited Speaker - Susan Blake, "Lexical Suffixes are Bound Roots: Phonological Evidence from Lillooet and Sliammon"

Sunday March 26

Roundtable on Language and Education. Invited speaker - John O'Meara, "Incorporating linguistic knowledge into the teaching of indigenous languages."

Athabaskan Prosody Workshop & Language Conference (Moricetown/Smithers, BC, June 9-11)

- From Sharon Hargus (sharon@u.washington.edu) 20 Feb 2000:

Two Athabaskan language meetings are scheduled for the weekend of June 9-11, in Moricetown and Smithers, BC.

1. A Workshop on "Athabaskan Prosody: Tone, stress, tone-stress inter-action, prosody-morphology interaction" will take place Friday, June 9, 2000, in Moricetown, BC, Canada. Invited speakers include: Jeff Leer, Siri Tuttle, Bill Poser, and John Alderete.
2. The 2000 Athabaskan Language Conference will take place Saturday and Sunday, June 10-11, 2000, Moricetown and Smithers, BC. This year's conference will feature a multi-media fair.

Abstracts for the workshop and conference are currently being accepted for 20-minute presentations on any aspect of the Athabaskan languages: linguistics, pedagogy, language maintenance, lexicography, language and culture, etc. Please send a 1-page abstract to Sharon Hargus by May 1, 2000. Abstracts may be submitted by e-mail (sharon@u.washington.edu), fax (206/685-4263), or regular mail (Sharon Hargus, University of Washington, Dept. of Linguistics, Box 354340, Seattle WA 98195-4340).

Include your name, institution, address, e-mail address, and phone or fax, and desired length of presentation. One-page abstracts must be accompanied by a 50-word version, which will be posted on the conference web site. Abstracts for multi-media presentations should also specify format of presentation and equipment needed.

The conference organizing committee includes: Margaret Anderson, Darlene Glaim-Buchholz, Sharon Hargus, George Holland, Victor Jim, Antonia Mills, Lillian Naziel, Patience Pederson, and Doris Rosso.

A conference web site has been set up at: <http://faculty.washington.edu/sharon/alc2000/>
(Funding for conference and workshop provided by the Univ. of Northern British Columbia, the Univ. of Washington, and the Kyah Wiget Education Society. This financial assistance is gratefully acknowledged.)

California Indian Conference (Rancho Cucamonga, CA, Oct. 14-15)

The 15th annual California Indian Conference will be held at Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga, October 14 & 15, 2000. The CIC is an annual gathering for the exchange of views and information among academics, American Indians, students, and other community members. Any topic reflecting humanistic, scientific, artistic, or social concern with California Indian peoples and their cultural heritage is welcome. Past topics have included literatures, storytelling, poetry, education, basketry, linguistics, anthropology, archeology, law, repatriation, history, casinos, Hollywood, tribal recognition, song and dance, and social and political issues.

Anyone interested in giving a paper or making a presentation should send an abstract of 150 words to the address below by SEPTEMBER 1, 2000. Please be sure to include an address, e-mail address, and phone number and state if you are available on both days. Inquiries are welcome.

Selected papers may be considered for later publication in a special issue of Studies in American Indian Literatures. The conference registration fee is a flat \$30 for everyone. Send all abstracts or inquiries to: California Indian Conference, Prof. LaMay, English Dept., Chaffey College, 5885 Haven Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737-3002 (e-mail: jlamay@chaffey.cc.ca.us; tel: 909/941-2162; fax: 909-941-2783).

106.4 BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORRECTIONS

- The dates for the third annual Northwest Indian Language Institute at the University of Oregon, Eugene, were incorrectly given in SSILA Bulletin #105.3. The correct dates are June 19 to July 7, 2000.
- The Yukon Native Language Centre website has a new address:
<http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/YNLC/>
- The proceedings of the Second Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL-2) are now available. Please see the WAIL website for the table of contents and ordering information: <http://linguistics.ucsb.edu/research/workpaps/vol9.htm> The proceedings WAIL-1 are also available. Please see:
<http://linguistics.ucsb.edu/research/workpaps/vol8.htm>
- The 2001 Linguistic Institute at UC-Santa Barbara will have the theme “The Diversity of Language: How and Why languages differ”. The sub-theme will be “The Pacific Rim languages and linguistics”. There will be more than 75 professors coming from 54 institutions in 21 countries. In addition, Santa Barbara is a beautiful beach resort with balmy weather and a great variety of gourmet restaurants and natural environment. The website of the Institute is: <http://www.summer.ucsb.edu/lisa2001institute.html>
- The 2000 Algonquian Conference will be held at McGill University, Montreal, at the end of October. The organizer is Toby Morantz (morantz@leacock.lan.mcgill.ca).

106.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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