

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

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Correspondence should be directed to the Editor

Number 109: March 25, 2000

109.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Website back in full operation (at last!)

The SSILA website, which as many of you know has been fully or partly non-functioning for over two months, has finally been restored to health. This required a move from UC Davis to a new server, maintained by PennyHost (a commercial provider). When you use our special domain address (<http://www.ssila.org>) you will be automatically forwarded to our new location. If you bookmarked our old UC Davis address, now is the time to switch to <http://www.ssila.org>.

While we were grappling with the mechanics of the website, our routine updating of the databases got put aside. Our web manager, Autumn Bouck, hopes to find the time to get everything current soon.

109.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Native American baby names

- From (mugwump@panix.com) 23 Mar 2000:

I'm looking for someone to help me transcribe the pronunciation of Native American baby names, and provide supplemental information on those names, for a baby names book.

The book will be one of the most comprehensive baby names books ever produced. At the moment, we have about 12,000 names. Currently, about 33 pages at double spacing are devoted to Native American names. So far, we've compiled the names, definitions, and variations of the names, and formatted this information. We're now planning to add pronunciations of the names and some additional material, such as examples of the name belonging to somebody famous. Only about half of the entries need supplemental information.

I'd be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in helping. It would be especially wonderful to find someone who could tackle the job immediately. My publisher is going crazy and wants everything right away -- a classic story, and I'm sorry to be continuing the tradition. Also a classic story is the small pay I can afford: about \$10 per page.

One of my problems is that I have little faith in the person who compiled the list of Native American names. I have no idea how accurate or common the names he found are. If you are interested in taking this on, you could be liberal with slashing obscure names and adding more common ones.

Anyone interested? Please either e-mail me at the address below or call me at home: 212/316-3475. You can also fax my assistant, Melody Lin, at 212/631-7529 or call her at 212/631-7524. Thanks so much!

~ J .P. Partland

354 Cathedral Parkway, Suite 4A
Manhattan Valley, NY 10025
(mugwump@panix.com)

Mystery phrase is Navajo?

- From (carl.masthay@harcourt.com) 16 Mar 2000:

Here's what I just sent to Susan Georgion, in response to her query about the "mystery phrase" her grandmother knew (Bulletin #108.1):

The first part "Ya YaTah" or even "Ya YaTah Yeh-" somewhat resembles Navajo /ya'at'eeh/ (all syllables are in the high pitch) 'it is good/well/fine, hello'. You might have heard a corruption of the word, and it might have had some kind of a shifted meaning too.

~Carl Masthay
St. Louis, Missouri
(carl.masthay@mosby.com)

109.2 MIDDLE, CENTRAL, OR MESO-AMERICA?

- From Reinhold (Rey) Aman (aman@sonic.net) 16 Mar 2000:

In SSILA Bulletin #108.4 you wrote:

- > ... Reports on the native languages of the Americas
- > were presented by: Michael Krauss (Arctic); Akira Yamamoto (North America); Colette Grinevald (Middle America); Willem Adelaar
- > (Highland South America); and Denny Moore (Lowland South America).

I have noticed the term “Middle America” several times in the Bulletin and in the Newsletter. Unless there is a reason for using it of which I’m unaware, this term is wrong (and confusing: is Kansas in Middle America?).

In language classification, “Middle” should be used only with periods of TIME. The corresponding term for PLACE (geographic region) is “Central.” For example “Middle English” (ca. 1100 to 1500) but “Central English dialects.” Thus the correct geographical designation is “Central America,” not “Middle America.”

~Reinhold Aman
Santa Rosa, California

The Editor comments:

“Central” and “Middle” may be neatly sorted out in the Old World (though what about “Middle East”?), but in the Americas it’s a mess.

During the first half of the 20th century “Middle America” was the term most commonly used by archaeologists, ethnographers, and linguists for the indigenous culture area we now call “Mesoamerica” (or “Meso-America”).

The term still lingers in the name of Tulane’s Middle American Research Institute, and in the “Handbook of Middle American Indians” edited by Robert Wauchop under Tulane’s auspices. Linguists working in this tradition called (and may still call) languages like Mixtec and Totonac “Middle American languages”.

In some contexts (see for example the announcement of the Rice Symposium in #109.3 below) “Central America” appears to be used as a synonym for “Middle America = Mesoamerica”. For most speakers of American English, however, “Central America” refers only to the American republics south of Mexico and north of Colombia. Mexico is not considered a Central American country; Guatemala and Belize usually are; the countries from El Salvador to Panama always are. Following this usage, Mixtec and Totonac are Mexican languages and Mesoamerican (or Middle American) languages, but not Central American languages. Xinca in Guatemala and Lenca in Honduras are Mesoamerican languages and also Central American languages. Rama in Nicaragua and Cuna in Panama are not Mesoamerican languages, but they are Central American languages. Some scholars use “Mesoamerica” and “Central America” as coordinate terms for the northern and southern sectors of the wider area that extends from north-central Mexico to northwestern Colombia. However, to avoid confusion with the political definition of “Central

America”, anthropologists usually label the culture area that lies between Mesoamerica and (ethnographic) South America by a distinct term, most commonly “Isthmian” or “Intermediate.” (Adolfo Constenla has written extensively on the typology of “Intermediate Area” languages -- largely Macro-Chibchan in affiliation.)

As if this weren't confusing enough, at least a few geographers apply “Middle America” to the entire area between North America in the narrow sense (the US and Canada) and South America -- including Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. To the best of my knowledge, however, this usage has (thankfully) not been adopted by any linguists.

And finally, Kansas -- if it is only semi-mockingly located in “Middle America” (the Mitteleuropa of the United States), it most definitely and unmockingly is part of the “Middle West”, where folks speak “Middle Western (English)”.

109.3 UPCOMING MEETINGS

8th Rice Symposium on Linguistics (Houston, TX, April 6-9)

- From Hilary Young (hilaryy@ruf.rice.edu) 20 Mar 2000:

Rice University's Department of Linguistics is pleased to announce the Eighth Biennial Rice Symposium on Linguistics to be held at Rice (Houston, Texas) April 6-9, 2000. This year's theme is "Causation and Interpersonal Manipulation in the Languages of Central and South America." The intent in convening this symposium is two-fold. First, to expand the disciplinary agenda to include three related fields -- social psychology, cultural anthropology and cognitive science -- within which the semantic features that underlie the grammar of causative constructions find their natural connectivity. Second, to enlarge the linguistic-typological database for the study of causative constructions to a large area that has been almost entirely excluded from past discussions: the indigenous languages of Central America and South America.

The tentative program is:

GENERAL THEORY (April 6)

Opening Remarks: Jim Copeland (Rice) & Tom Givon (Oregon)

- Masayoshi Shibatani (Kobe), "The causative continuum"
- Michel Achard (Rice), "Causation, Constructions, and Language Ecology: An Example from French"
- Juan-Carlos Moreno Cabrera (U. Autonoma, Madrid), "A Causative Analysis of Experiencer Constructions"
- Bertram Malle (Oregon), "Verbs of interpersonal causation and the folk theory of mind and behavior"
- Steve Tyler (Rice), "Transports of Ecstasy"
- Tom Givon & Phil Young (Oregon), "Cooperation and manipulation in the society of intimates"

CENTRAL AMERICA (April 7)

- Michel Launey (Paris), "Let Me See...: About a Few Causative Pairs in Classical Nahuatl"
- Ricardo Maldonado & Fernando Nava (UNAM), "Tarascan causatives and event complexity"
- Veronica Vasquez (UNAM), "Some constraints on causative constructions in Cora"
- Roberto Zavala (Oregon), "Olutec Causatives and Applicatives"

SOUTH AMERICA (April 7-8)

- Dave Fleck (Rice), "Causer nominalizations in Matsigenka (Panoan; Amazonian Peru)"
- David Weber (SIL Peru), "When the Jacaranda flowers: Para-scientific cause-effect relations in Hullaga (Huanuco) Quechua"
- Connie Dickinson (Oregon), "Verb classes and causatives in Tsafiki"
- David Payne (SIL Peru), "Causatives in Asheninka"

- Francisco Quiexalos (CNRS & IRD, France), “Periphrastic Causatives in Sikuani and the Notion of Transfer”
- Pilar Valenzuela (MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology), “Causativization and transitivity in Shipibo-Konibo (Panoan; Amazonian Peru)”
- Maura Velazquez (Colorado State), “Causative constructions in Guarani”
- For further information see the symposium website:
<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~hilaryy/symp.html>
- Or contact Hilary Young at <hilaryy@rice.edu>.

Program for WAIL-3 (Santa Barbara, CA, April 14-16)

The Third Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL), to be held at UC Santa Barbara, April 14-16, 2000, will include the following presentations:

- William Lewis (U of Victoria), “Topic in Central Kalapuyan: The Phonological Segments of John Hudson’s Santiam”
- Rosemary Beam de Azcona (UC Berkeley), “Proto-Zapotec *ty in Three Dialects of Coatlan-Loxicha Zapotec”
- Alan Yu (UC Berkeley), “On the Origins of the Chumash Sibilant Harmony”
- Harold Crook (Nez Perce Language Program), “Diachronic Explanations for Stem Asymmetries in Nez Perce”
- Troi Carleton (San Francisco State), “3rd Person Topic Marking in Zenzontepec Chatino”
- Regina Pustet (U of Colorado Boulder & U of Munich), “Lakota Postpositions”
- Pilar M. Valenzuela (U of Oregon & MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology), “Verb Classes and Degrees of Transitivity in Shipibo-Konibo”
- Rudolph Troike (U of Arizona), “Relative Clauses in Coahuilteco”
- Eduardo Rivail Ribeiro (U of Chicago & Museu Goeldi), “Vowel Harmony Karaja (Macro-Je)”
- Jay Lloyd (UC Santa Cruz), “Optionally Optimal: Free Variation in a Dakota Dialect”
- Ashlee Bailey (UC Berkeley), “Wiyot Consonant Harmony and Symbolism”
- Luciana Dourado (UC Santa Barbara & U de Brasilia), “The Advancement of Obliques in Panara”
- Anatol Stefanowitsch (Rice U), “Akawaio Causitives”
- Mauricio J. Mixo (U of Utah), “Switch Reference in Mandan: Implications for Siouan?”
- M. Dale Kinkade (UBC), “A Sketch of Proto-Salishan Word Structure”
- (Keynote Address)
- Amy-Jocelyn Mandel (U of Arizona), “Language Planning in the Andes: A Case Study of the Mapudungun Language of Chile”
- Ellen Courtney (East Carolina U), “Child Acquisition of Quechua Change of State Verbs”
- Maria C. Chavarria (Purdue U), “Ese Eja Toponymy: A way to Maintain the Language and the Indigenous History (Peru)”
- Dave McKercher (Stanford U), “Switch-Reference and Direct Quotation in Zuni”
- Maura Velazquez-Castillo (Colorado State U), “Guarani Causative Constructions”
- Donna Gerds & Thomas Hukari (Simon Fraser U & U of Victoria), “The Dual Structure of Halkomelem Motion Verbs”

- Desrey Fox (Rice U), “Grammatical and Lexical Variation Within the Akawaio Language, in the Village of Waramadong”
- Raquel Costa (UC Santa Barbara & Museu Nacional/UFRJ), “Case Marking in Marubo (Panoan): A Diachronic Approach”
- Susan Fitzgerald, “Historical Survey of Salish Lexical Affixes”
- Willem J. de Reuse (U of North Texas), “Deferred Evidence as a Grammatical Category in Western Apache”

For further information, contact the conference coordinator by e-mail at wail@humanitas.ucsb.edu or by phone at 805/893-3776. For information on the location and accommodations visit the WAIL web site at: <http://linguistics.ucsb.edu/events/wail/wail.html>

Parts of Speech in and across Languages (Helsinki, August 17-19)

- From Matti Miestamo (matmies@ling.helsinki.fi) 16 Mar 2000:

The Linguistic Association of Finland is organizing a symposium on PARTS OF SPEECH IN AND ACROSS LANGUAGES, to be held at the University of Helsinki, August 17-19, 2000. The symposium will bring together linguists interested in problems relating to parts of speech. Papers addressing general typological questions are invited, as well as papers taking the viewpoint of one (or more) particular language(s). Possible themes include the universality of the noun/verb distinction, (the grammaticalization of) adpositions, and the status of particles and interjections in grammar and discourse. Other topics relating to parts of speech are equally welcome.

The invited speakers will be Leon Stassen (University of Nijmegen) and Anneli Pajunen (University of Turku).

The deadline for submission of abstracts (in English; max 500 words) is May 15, 2000. Please submit your abstract by e-mail to the following address: parts-of-speech@helsinki.fi. The abstract should be included in the body of the message. E-mail submissions are strongly recommended. If, however, you send your abstract by ordinary mail, please provide an e-mail address as a contact address. Participants will be notified about acceptance by June 5, 2000.

For further information, please contact: parts-of-speech@helsinki.fi

Workshop on Bolivian/Rondonian Languages (Leiden, Sept 28-30)

- From Mily Crevels (crevels@rullet.leidenuniv.nl) 16 Mar 2000:

We will be organizing a workshop on Bolivian and Rondonian languages at Leiden University at the end of September. Could you please announce the call for papers in the SSILA Newsletter? I am attaching the file (with some diacritics) as well. Thanks for your trouble.

For the third consecutive year a Workshop on Amerindian languages will be held at Leiden University between 28-30 September, 2000. This year the Workshop theme will be "Bolivian and Rondonian indigenous languages."

Persons wishing to present a paper at the Workshop are requested to send three copies of a one-page abstract to the head of the program committee:

Simon van de Kerke

Department of Comparative Linguistics (VTW)

Leiden University

P.O. Box 9515

NL-2300 RA LEIDEN

The Netherlands

(kerke@rullet.leidenuniv.nl)

to reach him no later than May 1, 2000. Please note that this deadline must be met. Each abstract should include the title of the presentation, the author's name (or authors' names) and mailing address (one mailing address for multiple authors), including telephone, fax, and e-mail address as available, the text of the abstract, and references, if necessary. The program committee will convey its decision by May 15, 2000.

The local organizer for the Workshop will be

Mily Crevels

Department of Comparative Linguistics (VTW)

P.O. Box 9515

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(crevels@rullet.leidenuniv.nl)

109.4 POSITIONS OPEN

One-year Lecturer position at Rice University

- From Philip W Davis (pwd@rice.edu) 18 Mar 2000:

The Department of Linguistics, Rice University, seeks a visiting Lecturer for the academic year 2000-01. Ph.D. required. Rice is a functionally oriented department, and we are looking for a recent Ph.D. who shares that approach to language. Course load is two per semester. Possible courses are Linguistic Analysis, Historical Linguistics, Phonology, Discourse Analysis, and Morphology. Salary commensurate with experience. For full consideration, reply by April 15 with three letters of reference to: Chair, Department of Linguistics MS23, 6100 Main St., Rice University, Houston, TX 77005. E-mail: ling@rice.edu. AA/EOE.

Temporary Lectureship at U of Pittsburgh

- From Alan Juffs (juffs+@pitt.edu) 21 Mar 2000:

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh announces a position for a visiting lecturer, effective August 28, 2000 to April 30, 2001. This appointment, which is outside of the tenure stream, will be for two terms. The main responsibility associated with this position is the teaching of three courses per term. The ideal candidate will be able to teach introductory courses in Linguistics, as well as American Indian Languages, and Morphology.

Interested individuals should send a letter of application, a current CV, and arrange to have three letters of recommendation sent to: Alan Juffs, Chair, Dept. of Linguistics, 2816 CL, Univ. of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

The deadline for applications is April 15, 2000. If you wish further information on this position, please contact Alan Juffs (juffs+@pitt.edu).

The University of Pittsburgh is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Visiting position in Sociolinguistics at Stanford

The Stanford Department of Linguistics announces a one-year position as Acting Assistant Professor in sociolinguistics for the academic year 2000-2001. The visitor will be expected to teach a graduate course in sociolinguistic theory and analysis, and three additional courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. These four courses will be taught over three academic quarters, beginning in late September 2000 and ending in mid-June 2001. The ideal candidate will have interests in one or more of the following: issues in language and migration, transnationalism, or postcolonialism; language and sexuality; ethnographic studies of language; linguistic anthropology. Salary will be up to \$50,000 depending on experience. Stanford University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Send a CV, a list of proposed courses, and names of three referees by April 17 to:
Sociolinguistics Search Committee, Dept. of Linguistics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
94305-2150 (fax: 650/723-5666).

109.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Bailey, Ashlee ashleecb@socrates.berkeley.edu
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