

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

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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112.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Reaching the SSILA website

During the past few weeks we have received several messages from SSILA members who have been unable to access our website. Except for one instance when the server was down for a few hours, the problem has been the address used. Many members apparently have not changed the bookmark on their browsers, or the address on their links page, to the new SSILA domain address: <<http://www.ssila.org>>. This is now the only address that will easily get you to our website, which is no longer being hosted by the TRC machine at UC Davis but by a commercial server managed by PennyHost.com.

112.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Putting a language course on the web

- From M. J. Hardman (hardman@ufl.edu) 18 Apr 2000:

I am thinking of putting my two-year Aymara course on my website. The print material consists of Vol. i, STUDENT MANUAL (477 pp.) and Vol. ii, TEACHERS' GUIDE (429 pp.), plus 70 Hours of pedagogical tapes to accompany the pedagogical materials. Clearly we will be doing reformulation.

What I would like to ask is: are there other language-learning courses on line that also include an audio component? Have any of you undertaken this type of task? If so, any advice?

~MJ Hardman
Gainesville, Florida
(hardman@ufl.edu)

[See "Web of On-line Grammars" in WEBSITES OF INTEREST below. --Ed.]

Hawaiian on the Today Show

- From Pila Wilson (pila_w@leoki.uhh.hawaii.edu) 18 Apr 2000:

The membership of SSILA may be interested to know that the Today Show visited one of our Punana Leo Hawaiian language nests recently. We have been informed that a short one minute segment on the school will be shown on May 1st, along with other cultural material.

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

A new “Coming to Light”

- From Brian Swann (swann@cooper.edu) 12 Apr 2000:

The very successful “Coming to Light: Contemporary Translations of the Native Literatures of North America” (Random House/Vintage) is now six years old, and I am considering editing a sequel, with “Coming to Light” as the model, in format and approach. This volume would stress new work (including re-translations of older and classic texts) by people *not* in “Coming to Light” (though it would not exclude those who are). As well as work by non-Native scholars, I am very interested in contributions from Native people, and in various forms of collaborations. The stress, as before, will be on quality translations, with a variety of approaches (always linguistically reliable).

This is a preliminary inquiry to find out if there is any interest in such a project. I should add that, at this early stage, I do not have a publisher lined up.

If you are interested, have any questions or suggestions, or just wish to know more, please contact me via e-mail or snail mail at the addresses below, or by phone at 212/353-4279 (fax 212/353-4398). If you have some specific project in mind, send me your proposal and, if available, a translation sample.

~Brian Swann
Humanities & Social Sciences, The Cooper Union
Cooper Square, New York City 10003
(swann@cooper.edu)

112.2 GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES AT U OF ALASKA

- From Gary Holton (Gary.Holton@UAF.EDU) 25 Apr 2000:

The University of Alaska invites applications for a Graduate Fellowship in Linguistics and Alaska Native Languages. The fellowship is open to post-baccalaureate students who are actively engaged in learning an Alaska Native Language and who intend to pursue a career in teaching or researching that language. It is intended to provide students with the financial resources to devote full attention to completing a graduate degree. Students will work closely with a committee of faculty to determine appropriate coursework and research design. The student must be accepted for graduate work at UAF under one of the following options:

- 1) M.Ed. in Language and Literacy;
- 2) M.A. or Ph.D. in Linguistic Anthropology;
- 3) an interdisciplinary M.A. or Ph.D. (For information on these degree programs, consult the UAF catalog.)

This award provides a \$10,000 stipend in addition to tuition and fees. Recipients must maintain continuous full-time enrollment and good academic standing at UAF throughout the tenure of the award. Please note that award recipients may not be employed during the tenure of the award. For more information see our website at: <http://www.uaf.edu/linguist/fellowship.html>
Or contact: Dr. Charlotte Basham, Linguistics Program, Box 757720, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7720 (ffcsb@uaf.edu).

Application deadline: June 15, 2000.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and Educational Institution.

112.3 ANOTHER VIEW OF THE “SQUAW” CONTROVERSY

- From Margaret Anderson (anderson@unbc.ca) 9 Apr 2000:

I very much appreciated getting the link to Cecil Adams' "Straight Dope" column on the controversy over place names with "squaw" (SSILA Bulletin #110.3). I think readers might also want to see the postings by Abenaki historian Marge Bruchac on the H-Amindian list regarding the same issue.

They can be found in the H-Amindian archive for 1 Sept. and 28 Sept. 1999. The address for the H-Amindian homepage is: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/history/h-amindian/>

~Margaret Anderson
University of Northern British Columbia
(anderson@unbc.ca)

112.4 UPCOMING MEETINGS

LASSO (Puebla, Mexico, Oct. 13-15)

The 29th annual meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest (LASSO) will be held October 13-25, 2000, in Puebla, Mexico, hosted by Benemerita Universidad Autonoma de Puebla. The theme of the meeting will be "Minority Languages in the Americas" and Yolana Lastra (UNAM) will present the Plenary Address. Abstracts are now welcome, particularly on the conference theme. All proposals for papers, special sessions, panels, or other program features should be submitted to Harmon Boertien, Dept. of English, Univ. of Houston, Houston, TX 77204 (hboertien@uh.edu).

Papers may be given either in English or in Spanish. The deadline for abstracts is June 1. For information about travel, lodging, and other local arrangements, contact Jim Fidelholtz at <jfidel@siu.buap.mx>.

Information about the meeting can also be found at the LASSO website:
<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/swjl/asso.html>

112.5 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Chetco-Tututni discography

A short discography that lists and annotates all the known recordings in the languages of the Southwest Oregon Athabaskans has been put on-line by Don Macnaughtan of the Lane County Library in Eugene. The ethnic groups include the Tututni, Chetco, Chasta Costa, and Galice-Applegate.

Although most of the recordings are unique wax cylinders, acetate discs, or aluminum discs held in archives in Washington DC and Seattle, in many cases the Lane County Library has tape recordings available for tribal members and researchers. This is a special project of the Confederated Tribes of the Lower Rogue as a resource for tribal ceremonies and rituals.

The URL is: <http://lanecc.edu/library/chetco.htm>

“Web of On-line Grammars”

- From Robert Beard (rbeard@bucknell.edu) 18 Apr 2000:

SSILA members might want to peruse my “Web of On-line Grammars” at <http://www.yourdictionary.com/grammars.html>

This page maintains links with on-line grammar pages and lessons for as many languages as can be found on the Web. It includes all types of grammars: reference grammars, language lessons, and historical grammars, so long as they represent credible and substantial language learning tools. Each grammar or language lesson entry is linked to dictionaries, fonts, and additional language-learning resources pertaining to the given language. My hope is that the grammar and the dictionary entries in “Web of On-line Dictionaries” represent the most complete package of language-learning materials on the Web. If you know of any materials I have missed, please let me know.

Links to Native American grammars currently include:

Cherokee (Richard Francis)

<http://www.powersource.com/cocinc/language/>

Cheyenne (Wayne Leman)

<http://www.mcn.net/~wleman/cheypgs.htm>

Cree (Brandon University)

<http://www.nisto.com/cree/lesson/>

Dakota (Jim Green)

<http://www.geocities.com/Paris/9463/daklang1.html>

Hupa (Victor Golla & Danny Ammon)

<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~ammon/danny/Hupa/HupaLanguage.html>

Mayan Glyphs and Grammar (Peter Mathews & Marc Zender)

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/%7Ekelly/mona/index.html>

Mingo (Jordan Lachler, Thomas McElwain & Sean Burke)

<http://www.speech.cs.cmu.edu/egads/seneca/>
Classical Nahuatl (D. L. Jordan)
<http://weber.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/index.html>
Ojibwe Language and Culture
<http://www.ncs4.net/ojibwe/>
Omaha-Ponca (John Koontz)
http://spot.colorado.edu/~koontz/omaha/op_sketch.htm
Potawatomi (Rob Malouf & Smokey McKinney)
<http://hpsg.stanford.edu/rob/pot/grammar.html>
Quechua (Russ & Ada Gibbons)
http://www.andes.org/q_vocab.html
Quechua (Barry Werger)
<http://www.cs.brandeis.edu/~barry/Quechua.html>
Quechua (Academia de Quechua)
<http://ekeko.rcp.net.pe/QUECHUA/>
Quichua (Jorge Alderetes)
<http://webs.satlink.com/usuarios/r/rory/main.htm>
Tzotzil (John Haviland)
<http://www.zapata.org/Tzotzil/>

The new <yourDictionary.com> website, which I hope to launch in a few weeks, will contain an Endangered Language section where I will be collecting contributions for the Endangered Language Fund and posting its notices. I hope to bring corporate tools to the struggle to record languages before they vanish, and help as many as can survive.

Anyone with grammars or dictionaries -- or even poignant stories about endangered languages or squibs on interesting linguistic points -- is invited to contact me about on-line publication.

~Robert Beard
Russian & Linguistics Programs
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(rbeard@bucknell.edu)

Cherokee font resources on the web

- From David Harris (dharris@las-inc.com) 14 Apr 2000:

I have developed a couple of web-enabled applications with the goal of simplifying the reading and writing of Cherokee texts. These can be accessed through the following webpage:

<http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Stadium/7075/ Cherokee/CherokeePages.html>

The first I call the Cherokee Phonetic Typewriter. Using a simple system of Romanization, you type your text in phonetic Cherokee and this application will spit out Cherokee text in your choice of two encoding schemes:

Cherokee Observer, and what I call LoCicero. Information about how to obtain these fonts is available on the webpage where the application resides. A third option allows you to print out the Cherokee text as GIFs (so that you can view the text without actually having a font on your machine).

The second application is a font converter. At the moment, there are two Cherokee font encodings competing for attention on the web. The first is used by the Cherokee Observer of Jay, Oklahoma. The advantage of this font is that a wealth of Cherokee-language material is available on-line in it at the Observer's language page at: <http://www.galstar.com/~dcwy/language.html>.

The disadvantage is that you have to buy it, whereas the LoCicero font is available for free at: <http://joyce.eng.yale.edu/~joant/Cherokee.html> and at:

<http://www.dtcc.edu/~berlin/fonts.html>

The problem is that very little if any Cherokee-language material is currently available in the free font.

This program addresses that problem. Using it you can convert back and forth between these two encodings, which enables you to read Cherokee Observer content without actually purchasing the Observer font (although if you can afford it, I encourage you to shell out the \$25 for it since it is so much simpler to just read it on line instead of feeding each paragraph through this converter). Anyway, try it out and let me know if there's something I can do to improve it.

~Dave Harris
Herndon, Virginia
(dharris@las-inc.com)

112.6 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Breinig, Jeane afjmb1@uaa.alaska.edu