

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

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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Number 114: May 24, 2000

114.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Kwakwala texts, free to good home

- From Robert Bringhurst (RBringhurst@compuserve.com) 18 May 2000:

I've been doing some diligent buying and trading lately, filling in holes in my library of Native American texts. As a consequence of one of these transactions, I have an extra copy of Boas's Kwakiutl Tales n.s. part 2 (CUCA 26.2, 1943). The extra copy is the AMS reprint, casebound, in pristine condition except for my bookplate on the pastedown. I do NOT have an extra copy of part 1 (CUCA 26.1, 1935), which contains Boas & Hunt's English translations; these are the Kwakwala texts alone. If someone out there has an active need for this half of the set, I would be happy to pass it on.

~Robert Bringhurst
Vancouver, BC
(rbringhurst@compuserve.com)

114.2 LOUISE ERDRICH ESSAY

A delightful essay by Louise Erdrich on the joys and pains of learning Ojibwe ("Two Languages in Mind, but Just One in the Heart") appeared in the Arts section of the New York Times this past Sunday (May 22). She begins:

- > For years now I have been in love with a language other than the
- > English in which I write, and it is a rough affair. Every day I try
- > to learn a little more Ojibwe. I have taken to carrying verb
- > conjugation charts in my purse, along with the tiny notebook I've
- > always kept for jotting down book ideas, overheard conversations,
- > language detritus, phrases that pop into my head. Now that little
- > notebook includes an increasing volume of Ojibwe words. My English
- > is jealous, my Ojibwe elusive. Like a besieged unfaithful lover,
- > I'm trying to appease them both.

The full text can be found at the NYT website:

<http://www.nytimes.com/yr/mo/day/news/arts/ojibwe-language.html>

(You have to register to view on-line articles, but there is no charge.)

114.3 REPRINTS OF SPECIAL ISSUE OF TRIBAL COLLEGE JOURNAL

- From Felicity Kurth (felicity@tribalcollegejournal.org) 16 May 2000:

The overwhelming success of the special Spring 2000 issue of the *Tribal College Journal* on Native Language [see Bulletin #104.4, or the April issue of the SSILA Newsletter, p. 6] has

inspired us to experiment with printing a smaller, condensed version of the original. The condensed version will include all the articles of interest on language, as well as the resource guide and reviews section. It will be in black and white only. If anyone on the SSILA list is interested in ordering bulk issues of this reprint they should contact me as soon as possible, so the mailing can be done directly from the press. The cost is \$3.00 each plus shipping. They will be available May 23rd.

~Felicity Kurth
TCJ Development

114.4 POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM AT U OF SONORA

- From Zarina Estrada F. (zarina@fisica.uson.mx) 18 May 2000:

La Universidad de Sonora y la Division de Humanidades y Bellas Artes convoca a los interesados a cursar el programa de Maestria en Linguistica con enfasis en Linguistica Indoamericana que dara inicio el mes de septiembre de 2000.

Objetivos:

- a. Formar personal altamente capacitado en el area de investigacion de las lenguas indigenas desde una perspectiva que valore las interrelaciones entre forma y funcion y diversidad linguistica.
- b. Preparar recursos humanos con alta capacidad de analisis, de interpretacion y de promocion de avances cientificos en materia linguistica, para fortalecer la investigacion de las lenguas indigenas de la region, de la nacion y del continente americano.
- c. Consolidar un esfuerzo regional de desarrollo de los estudios linguisticos en esta area del conocimiento y contribuyendo al impulso de la investigacion de las lenguas indigenas y al desarrollo de la disciplina.

Este programa de posgrado se imparte en acuerdo con profesores investigadores del Departamento de Investigaciones en Lenguas Indigenas de la Universidad de Guadalajara, del Centro de Estudios Linguisticos y Literarios de El Colegio de Mexico y del Seminario de Lenguas Indigenas del Instituto de Investigaciones Filologicas de la Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.

El programa funciona mediante el sistema de tutorias con lo que se busca garantizar la atencion personalizada al estudiante.

Los estudiantes inscritos en este programa, podron optar, durante un semestre y a lo largo de su permanencia en el mismo, por cursar alguna materia en el programa de Linguistica o Antropologia de la Universidad de Arizona. Esto sera posible gracias al "Convenio de movilidad" que la Universidad de Sonora sostiene con dicha universidad norteamericana.

Asimismo se comunica que el curso de sintaxis sera impartido en noviembre de 2000 por el Dr. Kenneth Hale, profesor de linguistica del Instituto Tecnologico de Massachusetts.

El numero maximo de estudiantes que se preve aceptar en el programa es de quince.
Informes: Apartado Postal 793
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114.5 POSITIONS OPEN

Three-year research fellowship at RCLT (La Trobe U, Australia)

Applications are invited for a three-year Research Fellowship in the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe University, to commence no later than 1 January 2001 (an earlier starting date is possible).

Applicants should have a Ph.D. in linguistics or have submitted their dissertation before taking up the position. They should have experience of linguistic fieldwork and will, ideally, have already completed a grammatical description of some previously undescribed language in terms of basic linguistic theory. (See the selection criteria below.)

The successful applicant will work as part of a team with Prof. R.M.W. Dixon, Prof. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, and other members of the Research Centre, on a topic relating to languages from either South America or the New Guinea region (primarily relating to Papuan languages). They will undertake extensive fieldwork and will either

- (i) produce a comprehensive description of some previously undescribed language; or
- (ii) pursue an in-depth study of a language contact situation.

Option (ii) will be suitable for someone who already has good knowledge of one or more of the languages involved in a suitable contact situation. The position has a remuneration package of Aust. \$56,877 to \$67,541 per annum which includes 17% superannuation with a salary component of \$48,613 to \$57,728 per annum.

An allowance will be made to cover travelling expenses to and from Australia at the beginning and end of the period of employment. A suitable allowance will be made to cover the expenses of linguistic fieldwork either in South America or in the New Guinea region.

Further information about RCLT will be found at our website:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/www/rclt>

Applications should be marked Private and Confidential and forwarded to:
Office of the Director (Personnel)
La Trobe University
Bundoora, Victoria 3083

Applications should quote "Reference Number 50004477", address the selection criteria (below), and include a c.v., list of publications, and the names and addresses of three referees (including e-mail, phone and fax numbers). Another copy of the application should be sent to:

Ms Siew Peng Condon, Executive Officer
Research Centre for Linguistic Typology
La Trobe University
Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia.

The closing date for applications is Monday 24 July 2000.

Selection criteria:

Essential

- (1) Thorough professional training in linguistics, with special reference to language description and linguistic typology.
- (2) Applicants should either already have a Ph.D. or be in the final stages of a Doctoral Program (the dissertation must be submitted before taking up the appointment), with their dissertation dealing with a topic in descriptive linguistics in terms of basic linguistic theory (not in terms of any non-basic formalism).
- (3) Ability to work, under direction, as a member of a research team.
- (4) Ability to work to a timetable, and produce results on time.

Desirable

- (1) Some training in anthropology.
- (2) Ideally, to have produced a description of a language, preferably a language for which there had previously been no good description and of which they are not a native speaker.
- (3) Demonstrated research experience which has resulted in publications, conference papers, reports or professional or technical contributions which give evidence of research ability.

If they have any queries, prospective applicants are invited to write to us at
<linguistic.typology@latrobe.edu.au>.

114.6 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Site for the applicatives sessions at the SF meeting

- From Tom Payne (tpayne@OREGON.UOREGON.EDU) 12 May 2000:

The organizers of the applicatives session at the November CAIL would like to announce that there is a website on which all the abstracts and other information about the session are posted.

The address is: <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~tpayne/applicatives3>

~Tom Payne, Alejandra Vidal & Roberto Zavala
University of Oregon

Virtual backup

- From Gene Adam (tanami@altavista.net) 17 May 2000:

A subscriber to the Endangered Languages list recently wrote that he'd had a computer crash and that all his data, accumulated over many years, was lost for ever, since he hadn't backed up his files. He has learned his lesson. Lots of us are flirting with a similar disaster, since backing up files takes time. However, there are other ways of backing up files than disks or tape.

One way of doing it is to upload your files to a web storage site. These are websites which offer up to 100 Mbytes of storage, free. As you accumulate irreplaceable documents, uploading them to these sites will make them available even if your hard disk craps out.

Apple Computer offers the "iDisk virtual hard disk", and also, for Mac users, there is "imagicaldesk" at <http://www.imagicaldesk.com>. For everyone, there is a free storage guide at <http://www.freecenter.com/homepages.html>.

It still takes some time and trouble to do this uploading, so another very easy ploy is to e-mail documents to yourself, making sure that your e-mail client settings specify "leave messages on server" when read.

~Gene Adam
College of Micronesia

Oxford Ancestors--the ultimate genealogy site

Interested in knowing your mtDNA haplotype? Last month a company called Oxford Ancestors, organized by the molecular geneticist Bryan Sykes, set up business with the offer to tell customers which of the seven major European haplogroups their mitochondrial DNA belongs to. (Or, as they phrase the question, what is your matrilineal "clan"? Which "daughter of Eve" are you descended from?) They will also match mtDNA from people with non-European matrilineal ancestry to the 20,000 samples in their databank, which cover in a less comprehensive way all of the mtDNA lineages of humanity. The test requires sending in a sample of cells brushed from the inside of the cheek. The fee is a mere 120 pounds sterling (\$180 US, dollar checks accepted). Oxford Ancestors also makes available maps of the current geographical distribution of any surname in the UK, and "MaleMatch" comparisons of Y-chromosome genetic fingerprints, which can be used to establish, or disprove, a paternal link between individuals.

For details see their website: <http://www.oxfordancestors.com>

Or contact: <enquiries@oxfordancestors.com>

ABEBOOKS.COM--the virtual used bookshop

For those of you who haven't yet found your way there, you have a treat waiting for you at "ABEBOOKS.COM". The "ABE" of the web address stands for "Advanced Book Exchange", the world's largest web-based network of independent booksellers who specialize in rare, antiquarian, used and out-of-print books. Operated from Victoria, BC, since 1995, but only now hitting its stride, ABE provides nearly 6000 member booksellers in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australia with an e-commerce forum for selling their books to a world audience. Like amazon.com, it works amazingly well, but unlike amazon.com and its rivals it

John P. Boyle (U of Chicago), "Causative constructions and valency changing morphology in Hidatsa"

Nicole Lea Evans (Indiana U), "Phrasal Markers and Pitch Accent in Pawnee"

David Rood (U of Colorado), "Speaking polysynthetically"

The program, a map to the Tribal Complex, and a registration form are -- or soon will be -- available on the Wichita tribal web site:<http://www.wichita.nsn.us>

Gary McAdams, Wichita Tribal President, invites anyone who is in town Thursday evening to come to the Tribal Complex around 7 pm for a reception.

For further information, including housing, contact David Rood (rood@colorado.edu) .

Atlantic Provinces Linguistics Association (Moncton, NB, Nov. 3-4)

The next meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Linguistics Association (Association de linguistique des provinces atlantiques) will be held November 3 and 4, 2000 at the University of Moncton in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. The APLA is a general linguistics conference that welcomes papers (in English or French) on the local languages and dialects of the Atlantic Provinces of Canada (e.g. Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Gaelic, Acadian French). Deadline for receipt of abstracts is Sept. 8.

For further details, contact Louise Beaulieu (louise@admin.cus.ca).

114.8 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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