

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

SSILA BULLETIN

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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115.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Searching for used books on the web (+ Young & Morgan)

- From Philip J. Greenfeld (pgreenfe@mail.sdsu.edu) 24 May 2000 :

I see you mention ABEBOOKS.COM (Bulletin #114.6). You might also find interesting BOOKFINDER.COM, which searches ABE and a number of other used book sources such as Powells and Bibliofind. The address is: <http://www.bookfinder.com/>

Bibliofind itself is a great source at: <http://www.bibliofind.com/cgi-bin/texis.exe/s/search?>

For new books it's also possible to compare prices (they vary by as much as 40%) at Pricescan.com. It's located at: http://www.pricescan.com/home_books.asp.

As long as I am touting web sites, did you know that the entire contents of Young and Morgan's The Navajo Language is available on the web as a searchable data base? It's located at: <http://www.speech.cs.cmu.edu/egads/navajo/>

Check 'em out.

~Philip J. Greenfeld
Dept of Anthropology, San Diego State University
(pgreenfe@mail.sdsu.edu)

Bookfinding

- From (dcosta@socrates.berkeley.edu) 24 May 2000:

Re: your piece about ABEBOOKS.COM. I would also note that BOOKFINDER.COM is an extremely easy place to find a remarkably large number of old books on American Indian linguistics/ethnology, or just related odds & ends.

Five minutes after first being told of the site, I located a \$35 copy of Thomas Wildcat Alford's Four Gospels of the New Testament in Shawnee (1929), which I'd been looking for for years and not really expecting to find. The listing was with a rare book dealer in Westchester County, New York. It don't get much easier than that!

~David Costa
El Cerrito, California
(dcosta@socrates.berkeley.edu)

Theses on endangered language maintenance?

- From Tasaku Tsunoda (tsunoda@tooyoo.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp) 24 May 2000:

Are there any Ph.D. theses (or their published versions) which deal directly with issues such as:

- (1) language maintenance, language revival
- (2) teaching of an endangered language or a minority language
- (3) language policy or language planning of an endangered language or a minority language.

I know of only one:

Maguire, Gabrielle. 1991. *Our own language: An Irish initiative*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.

I would appreciate any information.

--Tasaku Tsunoda
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115.2 THE DAGHIDA PROJECT: DENE LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION IN ALBERTA

- From Sally Rice (Sally.Rice@ualberta.ca) 31 May 2000:

The Cold Lake First Nations Reserve in Alberta, Canada, and a team from the University of Alberta are currently working together on an action research project directed towards protecting and revitalizing the Dene Soun'line (Chipewyan) language and culture. This three-year, \$700,000 project is being funded through a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada and the University of Alberta.

The past fifty years have seen a constant decline in the numbers of Dene Soun'line at Cold Lake able to fully communicate in their native language --fewer than 15% of all band members speak an aboriginal language to some degree of competency. For reasons of history and circumstance, this band is the most southern of all Dene Soun'line-speaking communities in Canada. The Dene spoken at Cold Lake is fairly conservative and rich in phonological and lexical contrasts that have been lost in many of the northern dialects of the language.

The Daghida Project (which proclaims "we are alive" in Dene) includes three major components. The first of these involves research by linguists, psycholinguists, and cross-cultural psychologists at the University of Alberta on the language, its speakers, and its acquisition and use. The second component involves educators from the university working in partnership with native speakers from the Cold Lake community to develop means of supporting language skills in proficient speakers, improving language and literacy skills in less proficient speakers, and promoting language skills in young children and youth. In addition, the development and implementation of university-level Dene courses (in the School of Native Studies at the U of A) as well as speaker-oriented introductory linguistics courses (to be taught on the reserve) is being planned. The final component of the project includes the production and promotion of resource materials (such as

traditional narratives, personal histories, genealogies, place-name inventories, ethnobiological knowledge, and community newsletters) in Dene for use in the school, on the reserve at large, as well as for internet distribution, museum display at a community-managed interpretive center (which will be developed in conjunction with the project), and for public broadcast.

In addition to employment opportunities for speakers on the reserve, this project will offer undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Alberta hands-on experience in linguistic and anthropological field research and analysis; multi-media production; museums training in archiving, curating, and management; and language/literacy curriculum development.

The re-establishment of this aboriginal language as a medium of communication within and around the Cold Lake First Nations community is felt by many Dene to be a necessary precondition for the restoration of cultural traditions and values as well as for community and individual healing.

For further information about the Daghida Project, contact Dr. Sally Rice (Linguistics) (sally.rice@ualberta.ca) or Dr. Heather Blair (Elementary Education) (heather.blair@ualberta.ca) at the University of Alberta; Mr. Alex Janvier or Ms. Valerie Wood at Cold Lake First Nations (telephone: 780/594-1189); or visit the project's website at: <http://www.arts.ualberta.ca/~daghida>

115.3 REVIVING A “DEAD” LANGUAGE IN AUSTRALIA

- From Rob Amery (rob.amery@adelaide.edu.au) 24 May 2000:

Dear Colleagues,

Allow me to take this opportunity to promote my own thesis, soon to be published. Originally entitled “Warrabarna Kurna! Reclaiming Aboriginal Languages from Written Historical Sources: Kurna Case Study”, it was completed at the University of Adelaide in June 1998. It will be published by Swets & Zeitlinger (Lisse, The Netherlands) in August 2000 under the title “Warrabarna Kurna: Reclaiming an Australian Language”.

The work addresses these questions:

1. Is it possible to revive a language, once it has ceased to be spoken, entirely on the basis of written records?
2. What is the nature of such a language revival?
3. What factors support such a revival?
4. What are its limitations?

It is a longitudinal study of the reclamation of Kurna, both as a language and as a social process, that is taking place as part of a linguistic and cultural renaissance and the re-emergence of a distinctive Kurna identity over the last few decades.

In this book I take an ecological perspective that focuses on the functional links between the language and its support structures. I trace the history of Kurna, drawing on all known sources (mostly from the period 1836-1858) and all known emerging uses for the language in

the modern period (1989-1997). In reclaiming Kaurna, key leaders and members of the community are working in collaboration with linguists and educators.

Kaurna revival began with the writing of six songs in 1990. Since then, the language has developed considerably. Kaurna programs have been established and expanded across several institutions catering to a range of learners and, increasingly, the language is being used in public by members of the Kaurna community. The range of functions for which the language is being used continues to expand, and there are early signs that it is beginning to take root within Nunga households.

We are still in the early stages of Kaurna language revival. Will it take the “great leap forward” and emerge as an everyday language within the community? Experience elsewhere tells us that the prospects of this happening are slim. However, the programs have already been a success in the eyes of the Kaurna community and within the education sector.

The Kaurna case shows how linguistic heritage can remain important as a marker of identity, even where very little knowledge of the language remains within the Aboriginal community. This study challenges widely accepted beliefs about the impossibility of reviving so-called ‘dead’ or ‘extinct’ languages. It shows in a practical way that this is a real possibility and demonstrates how it might be accomplished.

~Rob Amery
University of Adelaide, Australia
(rob.amery@adelaide.edu.au)

115.4 PHILLIPS FUND GRANTS FOR 2001

The American Philosophical Society announces the availability of Phillips Fund grants for Native North American research in 2001. Awards of up to \$2000 will be made for research in Native North American (i.e, continental United States and Canada) linguistics and ethnohistory; projects in archaeology, ethnography, psycholinguistics, or pedagogy are not eligible. Grants are ordinarily made for one year, and typically cover travel, tapes, and informants’ fees; they cannot cover general maintenance. APS grants are for research only and cannot subsidize study, travel to conferences, workshops, or to consult with other scholars, permanent equipment, or assistance with publication or translation.

Both pre- and post-doctoral researchers are eligible to apply, and requests may be made for research for M.A. theses or Ph.D. dissertations. Applicants may be residents of the United States, or American citizens resident abroad. Non-US nationals are eligible if their research can only be carried out in the United States. APS grants are made only to individuals; institutions are not eligible to apply.

The deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 2001. Notification of awards will be made in May.

Application forms for all of the Society's programs can be downloaded from the APS website: <http://www.amphilsoc.org> Click on "Grants" on the homepage.

115.5 UPCOMING MEETINGS

Hokan-Penutian Workshop (UC Berkeley, June 17-18)

- From Leanne Hinton (hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu) 26 May 2000:

The Hokan-Penutian conference will take place June 17-18 in Room 370 Dwinelle Hall (the new top floor conference room). The tentative program is:

Saturday Morning (8 a.m. - 12:30)

Brief presentations by participants in the Breath of Life language restoration workshop for California Indians. The languages represented at the workshop are mostly Hokan and Penutian, but we will also have reports from a few other language families. The list is tentatively as follows:

- HOKAN: Achumawi/Atsugewi, Pomo (Northern, Eastern, Kashaya), Chumash (Obispeno and Barbareno), Salinan
 - PENUTIAN: Costanoan (Mutsun, Rumsen), Miwok (Coast, Sierra), Maidu (Konkow, Nisenan, Northeastern, Nomlaki)
 - UTO-AZTECAN: Acjachemem, Mono
 - ATHABASKAN: Mattole, Hupa, Wailaki
 - ALGIC: Wiyot
 - ISOLATES: Wappo, Yuki
- (Luncheon at the conference site)

Saturday afternoon

- Margaret Langdon & Leanne Hinton, "The History of the Hokan-Penutian Conference"
- Andrew Simpson, (Yana, TBA)
- Margaret Langdon, "The story of Johnny Bear: a European tale in 'Iipay Kumeyaay'"
- Alan Yu, "Chumash sibilant harmony"
- Juliette Blevins, "Notes on sources of Yurok glottalization"

Sunday morning

- Victor Golla, "The history of the term 'Penutian'"
- Marie-Lucie Tarpent, "Penutian morphological elements"
- Anthony P. Grant, "Fabric, pattern, shift and diffusion: what change in Penutian languages can tell historical linguists"
- Catherine Callaghan, "Problems of writing a historical grammar"
- Andrew Garrett, "On Rumsen dialectology"

- William Weigel, (TBA on Yowlumne or Wukchumni)
- Lynn Nichols, (TBA on Zuni)

BUSINESS MEETING HOUSING

There are various hotels around, but they are fairly expensive. Instead, I recommend the Summer Visitor Housing in Stern Hall, a student residence hall (single occupancy. \$45/ night; double occupancy \$58/night). After June 1, the phone # for reservations is 510/642-5925. If you are pretty sure you'll want to stay there, call right away, because they are already filling up quickly for that weekend. You can also make reservations via the web: <http://www.housing.berkeley.edu/housing/>

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

- From Simon van de Kerke (kerke@rullet.leidenuniv.nl) 25 May 2000:

I would like to thank everyone who has sent in an abstract for the Workshop on Bolivian and Rondonian Languages to be held in September in Leiden. There are some papers which report on languages geographically slightly out of the region proper but I hope nobody objects. We will have five sessions: Thursday morning and afternoon, Friday morning and afternoon, and Saturday morning. Tradition prescribes dinner on Friday evening and a bicycle tour on Saturday afternoon, but boating is a possible alternative.

The following preliminary grouping of the presentations suggests itself:

(A) The Highland Languages: General

- Erin O'Rourke, "Stressed and unstressed vowel duration in Aymara"
- Jose I. Hualde & Monica Prieto, "Aymara Plosives: an acoustic investigation"
- Utta von Gleich, "Literacy among Bilinguals in Bolivia"
- Elena Filimonova, "Person Hierarchy: the case of Aymara The highland languages: Morphology"
- Miguel Huanca, "Aymara Basic Suffixes: a pedagogical approach"
- Katharina Haude, "The Semantics of Some Verbal Derivational Suffixes in Aymara"
- Pieter Muysken & Simon van de Kerke, "The order of Verbal Derivational \Suffixes in Jaqaru"
- Willem Adelaar, "Locative Verbalization and the Progressive Marker in Jaqaru"

(B) Phonology & More

- Geralda Angenot-de Lima, "The Nominal Desepicization Strategies in the More' Amazonian language"
- Barbara Kempf & Geralda Angenot-de Lima, "Personal and Non-personal Nouns in More'"
- Jean-Pierre Angenot & Geralda Angenot-de Lima, "Teleological More"
- Two-Moras Conspiracy: Compensatory Lengthening Feeding, compensatory Geminatio"
- Claudia Teles Maeda & Iara Maria Teles, "Oro Eo Floating Syllable in the Onset"
- Astrid Alexander-Bakkerus, "Cholon Sounds Reconstructed: a symbol analysis"

(C) Lowland: General

- Megan Crowhurst, “Linguistic Markers of Propositional Structure in Ava Narrative”
- Hein van de Voort, “The Quotation Construction in Kwaza and its Grammaticalized Extensions”
- Mily Crevels, “Canichana: A preliminary sketch”

(D) Lowland: Morphology and Syntax

- Antoine Guillaume, “Participial and Switch-Reference in Cavinena”
- Maria C. Chavarria, “Word Formation in Ese Ejja (Tacana Family)”
- Simon van de Kerke, “More on Leko Morphology”
- Jeanette Sakel, “Gender in Mosesten”
- Other possible participants include: Lucrecia Villafane (Yuqui), Pilar Valenzuela (Pano), Harry de Haan (Besiro, Chiquitano), Colette Grinevald, Leo Wetzels, and Alfredo Torero.

Pieter Muysken suggested that it would be a good idea to take some time for short project presentations. In Leiden, we have a research group on Bolivian lowland languages within the Spinoza project. There are long term objectives, contacts with counterparts in Bolivia, and we are starting a series of publications. This kind of information is of mutual interest for all of us, so if you are engaged in any kind of project we would like to hear about it. Mily Crevels will take over as the person in charge of the Workshop from the end of June. Any questions after then should be sent to: crevels@rullet.leidenuniv.nl

~Simon van de Kerke

115.6 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Chiricahua & Mescalero texts

- From Eleanor Culley (mec6u@etext.lib.virginia.edu) 1 June 2000:

I'm writing to let people know about a web site I'm working on with the Electronic Text Center at the University of Virginia. It's an electronic version of Harry Hoijer's Chiricahua and Mescalero Apache Texts (1938).

It's still very much under construction -- only five texts are up so far and these still need proofing -- but the general layout is pretty well mapped out at this point. Any comments people might have on this site would be highly valued. The URL is:

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/apache/ChiMesc.html>

Probably the most interesting page on the site is:

<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/apache/frames/index.html>

This page has a three-way interlinked frames presentation of Apache and English versions of the texts, along with Hoijer's linguistic notes.

~M. Eleanor Culley

Anthropology Department, University of Virginia
(mec6u@etext.lib.virginia.edu)

115.7 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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