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-- <<--

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143.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Website still crippled
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We must apologize for the continuing problems with the SSILA website.
As you know if you have visited the site recently, the large databases
have not been searchable for several weeks. The special software that
powers the searches has been disconnected, and the tech support at our
host site has been (to say the least) unhelpful. We are in the process
of moving the site -- once again -- and we hope to have things running
again by the end of August. Meanwhile, please bear with us.

143.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Cohotate?
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>From Liz LoGiudice (liz@gcswcd.com) 18 Jul 2001:

I have recently been hired to work at a small nature preserve in upstate
New York. The preserve is on the Hudson River and it is called the
Cohotate Preserve. I have been told that the word 'Cohotate" is an
Iroquois word for the river, meaning 'water that flows two ways'. I am
assuming that if this is true, it would be a Mohawk word, since they
were the members of the Iroquois nation who lived closest to the Hudson.

I am hoping that someone can inform me if this word is actually a Mohowk
name for the Hudson River and advise on correct pronunciation.

Thanks very much for your time and effort.

--Liz LoGiudice, Education Coordinator
Cohotate Preserve
(liz@gcswcd.com)

[Bill Bright writes: "I don't know anything about the pronunciation or
origin of this word. It's not listed in Beauchamp's "Aboriginal Place
Names of New York." Do other SSILA readers have suggestions?]

Some animal terms needed
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>From George Ann Gregory (hoanumpoli@hotmail.com) 18 Jul 2001:

I am working on creating materials to promote literacy among beginning
readers and writers, regardless of the language (I call these "language
prompts"). Essentially, they are pictures that a child can either write
about or talk about. The first set of pictures are of animals and come
with the names in various languages, mostly Native American languages.
Although I have most of the terms I need, there are still a few gaps in
my data. Here is what I need:

Choctaw: porcupine
Cherokee: ant, bat, porcupine, buffalo, turtle

Lakota: big fish, goat

Any help would be most welcome. Yokoke (thanks)!

--George Ann Gregory
Albuquerque, New Mexico
(hoanumpoli@hotmail.com)

Dictionary wanted
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
J.L.(Zeph) Zephier (ishnajin@webtv.net)

I am a Nakota Sioux, from the the Ihanktonwan Oyate, in South Dakota.
I've been searching for a Nakota dictionary. As of yet my search has
been in vain. Does anyone have an idea where I can find one? Thank You!

--"Zeph"
Wagner, South Dakota
(ishnajin@webtv.net)

Information on linguistic diversity?
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>From Patrick Steinkrueger (steinkrueger@zas.gwz-berlin.de) 26 Jul 2001:

For an event at our Institute on September 15th, we need information
about endangered langauges and linguistic diversity around the world.
If readers of the SSILA Bulletin have some appropriate material (maps,
brochures, etc.), could they send it to us? It goes without saying that
we will reimburse all costs.

Thank you for your help in advance.

--Patrick Steinkrueger
Zentrum fuer Allg. Sprachwissenschaft, Typologie & Universalienforschung
Jaegerstr. 10/11, D-10117 Berlin, Germany
(http://www.zas.gwz-berlin.de)

143.2 ENDANGERED LANGUAGES DATABASE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

>From NSF News Service (cns-admin@nsf.gov) 9 Jul 2001:

To combat the decrease in the number and diversity of languages and to
capitalize on a growing store of digitized linguistic data, a team of

National Science Foundation-funded researchers led by Anthony Aristar
at Wayne State University is developing an endangered languages database
and a central information server that will allow users to access the
material remotely by computer. A $2 million NSF grant to Aristar and
his colleagues at Eastern Michigan University, the University of
Pennsylvania and the University of Arizona will be used to create
this public digital archive.

The goals of the Electronic Metastructure for Endangered Languages Data
(E-MELD) project are to collect data on endangered languages and to
devise a Web-based protocol so that new and existing data will be
accessible to researchers and native speakers everywhere. Researchers
on the E-MELD project will start with 10 distinct endangered languages
to design a system that will be versatile, useful and extensible.
E-MELD is modeled on the Internet, where standard communications proto-
cols allow users to access information housed on a variety of very
different operating systems, including UNIX, Windows-NT, and VMS.

The first version of E-MELD is expected to appear online this fall at
the Linguist List website (http://www.linguistlist.org).

143.3 STABILIZING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES SYMPOSIUM AND WEBSITE

>From Jon Reyhner (Jon.Reyhner@nau.edu) 19 Jul 2001:

The Eighth Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium, "Merging
Tradition and Technology to Revitalize Indigenous Languages", was held
at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, on June 14-16,
2001, with about 400 indigenous language educators and activists in
attendance. The symposium's many panels, workshops, papers, and informal
discussions provided an opportunity to share ideas and materials for
revitalizing the indigenous languages of the world.

There were sixty sessions, ranging from "Choctaw Internet Courses in
Oklahoma" to "Planning a Summer Language Immersion Camp." Plenary
sessions featured Oscar Kawagley of the University of Alaska speaking
on "A Yupiaq Worldview: A Pathway to Ecology and Spirit"; readings by
Navajo poets Luci Tapahonso and Laura Tohe; and a talk by language
activist Gary Owens on "Curriculum Development and Language Learning:
Breathing Outside the Box." A selection of the conference papers is
scheduled for publication in the spring of 2002.

The ninth annual conference is planned for 2002 in Montana, with the date
and place still to be determined. Updated information will be posted on

the Teaching Indigenous Languages (TIL) website at:

http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/TIL.html

as soon as it is available. You can be put on an e-mail list to receive
information by sending your e-mail address to:

Jon.Reyhner@nau.edu

Published proceedings of the 1994, 1995, 1997, and 1998 conferences can
be accessed at the TIL website.

Other new material on the TIL website includes the full text of "Learn
in Beauty: Indigenous Education for a New Century", with papers on
Navajo attitudes towards teaching their language in schools, a model
Navajo/English dual language program, and western influences on teaching
indigenous languages. There is also a link to the full text of the
summer 2001 special issue of *Cultural Survival Quarterly* titled
"Endangered Languages, Endangered Lives", and a link to the 2001 Alaska
Guidelines for Strengthening Indigenous Languages.

143.4 POSITIONS OPEN

* Indigenous Studies at the U of Victoria
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>From Andrew Rippin (arippin@uvic.ca) 16 Jul 2001:

The University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada) has two vacant
faculty positions in Indigenous Studies.

--Chair of Indigenous Studies, to be filled by an active researcher
who meets the requirements of the Canada Research Chair program.
The person will provide leadership to the efforts centred within our
Faculty related to Indigenous Studies and will contribute to inter-
disciplinary work through links across campus, especially in the
faculties of Human and Social Development, Social Science, Fine Arts
and the newly approved Minor in Indigenous Studies.

--A tenure-track position in Indigenous Studies at the rank of Assistant
Professor, beginning July 1, 2002.

In accordance with the University's Equity Plan and pursuant to Section
42 of the BC Human Rights Code, the selection for these positions will
be limited to aboriginal peoples. Candidates from this group are

encouraged to self-identify. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed to Canadian citizens and permanent residents in the first instance. Others are encouraged to apply but are not eligible for appointment until a Canadian search is completed and no appointment made.

The full vacancy announcements can be found on the web at:

http://web.uvic.ca/humanities/positions/is-minor.htm

http://web.uvic.ca/humanities/positions/crc.htm

--Andrew Rippin
Dean, Faculty of Humanities
University of Victoria
(arippin@uvic.ca)

143.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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