
144.1 CORRESPONDENCE

Courtroom interpreters needed in Oregon

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>From Daniel Suslak (d-suslak@uchicago.edu) 30 Jul 2001:

Apparently the state of Oregon is on the lookout for speakers of various Mesoamerican languages (e.g. Nahuatl, Tarasco, Zapoteco, Mixteco, Mam) to do translation work in courtrooms. If you are interested in helping out please contact me or Lois Feuerle at <Lois.M.FEUERLE@ojd.state.or.us>. Thank you for your assistance.

--Daniel Suslak
Dept. of Anthropology
University of Chicago
(d-suslak@uchicago.edu)

Choctaw porcupines

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>From George Aaron Broadwell (gb661@csc.albany.edu) 31 Jul 2001:

Re: George Ann Gregory's inquiry in SSILA Bulletin #143.1 about animal names, including the Choctaw word for porcupine.

I do not think that there is a Choctaw word for porcupine. The speaker I asked had never heard of one. None is listed in Byington, the largest and oldest dictionary of the language. Nor is there one in Munro and Willmond's Chickasaw dictionary.

I'm no expert on the distribution of animals, but one website I checked (<http://www.desertusa.com/mag99/mar/papr/porcupine.html>) says that porcupines are found in the desert and western regions of North America. So I think that perhaps they are not (or were not) native to the parts of Mississippi and Oklahoma where Choctaw people live.

--George Aaron Broadwell
Albany, NY
(gb661@csc.albany.edu)

Fake stamps, anyone?

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>From taylor j (cabbagelooper@yahoo.com) 11 Aug 2001:

I'm an MA student in linguistics who, as a hobby, creates artistamps (fake postage intended for decoration of envelopes). I have begun a series of artistamps commemorating endangered languages, which will be sold by the Endangered Language Fund as a part of its fundraising efforts. I am in need of endangered language speakers to translate the project title -- "Language Project" -- into their language for use on the stamp. In exchange for the translation I will send you some of the completed stamps. Any help with this is appreciated, including suggestions for appropriate images to feature.

--Joanna Taylor

(cabbagelooper@yahoo.com)

144.2 PAPERBACK EDITION OF MITHUN BOOK

Readers of the SSILA Bulletin will be happy to learn that Marianne Mithun's definitive book, *The Languages of Native North America* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), which was originally published only in an expensive hardback edition, is now available in paperback for a much more affordable price (\$29.95).

144.3 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* [yourDictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com)

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[yourDictionary.com](http://www.yourdictionary.com) (YDC) is a commercial site that advertises itself as "The Premier Global Language Portal." Despite the dot.com hype, there is a lot of useful information at this site. The URL is:

<http://www.yourdictionary.com>

YDC offers dictionaries, grammars, and other "language-related products and services" for a wide range of languages. They claim to have more than 1800 dictionaries representing more than 260 languages, including several dozen from the Americas.

Of special interest is an "Endangered Language Repository" at:

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/elr/index.html>

This page contains information (much of it digested from the Ethnologue) on the world's linguistic diversity. There are newspaper stories, a list of extinct and endangered languages, and links to groups around the world that are working for the survival of small languages. This section was apparently designed in collaboration with the Endangered Language Fund at Yale, and there is information on how to contribute to the ELF.

* Language maps on-line

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Not surprisingly, there are few good language maps easily available on-line. We recently came across one at:

<http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/k12/naha/maps/nausa.html>

Here you will find a relatively legible version of the map of "Native American Tribes, Culture Areas, and Linguistic Stocks" published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1967. It reflects the classification and tribal boundaries used in the Handbook of North American Indians, and covers the lower 48 states. The page is apparently part of a website put up around 1996 by Teachers College at Columbia University, and the links you get by clicking on the map are not very relevant. But the map itself remains a good basic resource.

If anyone knows of other on-line maps that accurately depict North (or Central and South) American language groups and boundaries, please send us the details (to golla@ssila.org) and we'll post the information in future Bulletins.

144.4 UPCOMING MEETINGS

* 33rd Algonquian Conference: reminder

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Readers are reminded that abstracts for the 33rd Algonquian Conference, which will be held at UC-Berkeley on Oct. 25-28, are due by Sept. 1. For more information contact: Rich Rhodes (rrhodes@cogsci.berkeley.edu) or Laura Buszard-Welcher (lbwelch@uclink.berkeley.edu). -- Note that Laura's address has been changed.

144.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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