

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Victor Golla (golla@ssila.org)

Associate Editor - Scott DeLancey (delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<--

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145.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Additional grammar available from Mouton

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A title in the Mouton Grammar Library was inadvertently omitted from the SSILA/Mouton discount brochure that was enclosed with the July Newsletter. The book is: Mark Donohue, "A Grammar of Tukang Besi" (1999), and is available to SSILA members for US \$50. It is #20 in the Mouton Grammar Library series -- Zygmunt Frajzyngier's "A Grammar

of Hdi" is actually #23, not #20 as stated in the brochure.

"A Grammar of Tukang Besi" is a comprehensive descriptive grammar of a hitherto virtually undescribed language of eastern Indonesia, and also includes samples of glossed translated texts and a vocabulary. Because of the geographical location of Tukang Besi and its unusual combination of typological features -- it combines features of the Philippine-type languages found to the north and west, and of eastern Indonesian and western Oceanic languages to the south and east -- this grammar will be of interest to general linguists as well as to Austro-nesianists, and to both synchronic and diachronic specialists.

A revised brochure with this title included will be sent to members with the October Newsletter. Members who wish to order it before then may manually add the title and price to the current Mouton/SSILA order form.

145.1 CORRESPONDENCE

The porcupine is also a northerner

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>From Alan H. Hartley (ahartley@d.umn.edu) 12 Aug 2001:

As a follow-up to George Aaron Broadwell's comment on the lack of a word for 'porcupine' in Choctaw (Bulletin #144.1), here is some further distributional information:

>From <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/>

"The common porcupine is found in boreal North America from Alaska to Labrador and southward to northern Mexico. Erethizon is also found in the Lake States and New England. In the north-central region, it is found only in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota."

I get the impression that porcupines are not found along the lower Mississippi or in the southeastern U.S. They aren't restricted, though, to "the desert and western regions of North America" as one might infer from Broadwell's message.

--Alan Hartley
Duluth, Minnesota
(ahartley@d.umn.edu)

letter to the Chair of the Committee at the address below, describing the event or project for which support is requested. Requests should be accompanied by the applicant's CV, or a written description of the applicant's language-based work and relevant community service activities, as appropriate. Applications may be submitted at any time, but at least two months of lead time should be allowed between sending applications and the date for which funding is needed (especially in the case of applications submitted by terrestrial mail).

Megan J. Crowhurst, Chair, CELP
University of Texas at Austin
Department of Linguistics
Calhoun 501
Austin, TX 78712-1196, USA

Applications may be sent by e-mail to: mcrowhurst@mail.utexas.edu

145.3 DICTIONARY OF ARGENTINE MAPUCHE DIALECT

>From Ana Fernandez Garay (anafg@ciudad.com.ar) 13 Aug 2001:

I would like to announce the recent edition of my Ranquel-Spanish dictionary that was recently published by the University of Leiden:

Ranquel-Espanol/Espanol-Ranquel: Diccionario de una variedad mapuche de La Pampa (Argentina). Ana Fernandez Garay. CNWS Publications (Indigenous Languages of Latin America, volume 2). University of Leiden, 2001. 201 pp.

Ranquel-Espanol/Espanol-Ranquel es, como lo indica su titulo, el inventario lexico de una variedad de la lengua mapuche hablada en la provincia de La Pampa, Argentina. Este dialecto se halla actualmente en proceso de extincion, razon por la cual la elaboracion del texto fue realizada con cierta urgencia con el objeto de que el pueblo ranquel que hoy trata de recuperar su lengua, pueda contar con materiales apropiados para tal fin. El diccionario reúne todos los terminos que se han podido documentar en el estado actual de la lengua. Los materiales linguisticos utilizados para la elaboracion del diccionario provienen de enunciados orales recogidos personalmente por la autora in situ con la colaboracion de distintos consultantes ranqueles.

For price and ordering information, contact Jeannette Jansen at [<J.Jansen@let.leidenuniv.nl>](mailto:J.Jansen@let.leidenuniv.nl).

145.4 ARCHIVAL RECORDINGS OF CHEROKEE MADE AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS

>From Keith Johnson (kjohnson@ling.ohio-state.edu) 19 Aug 2001:

An archival set of four compact disk recordings of spoken Cherokee with a detailed 20-page index of the CD contents has been deposited with the Oklahoma Historical Society (Oklahoma City), the Western History Library, University of Oklahoma, and with the Cherokee Nation Cultural Center, Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The CDs contain a total of about 900 minutes of digitized .wav files from original recordings made by William Pulte and Durbin Feeling between July 1971 and August 1973 (Feeling & Pulte, 1975). The main speaker in these recordings was Durbin Feeling of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Other speakers included Robert Bushyhead, Agnes Cowen, Pauline Glass, Sam Hair, Tom Handle, Willy Jumper, Nancy Letford, Dennis Springwater, and Lizzie Whitekiller.

The contents of the CDs include:

1. Paradigm of tenses and aspects
2. Examples of discourse markers
3. Wh-questions, yes-no questions and answers
4. Time expressions and tenses
5. Commands and requests
6. Relative clauses
7. Singular versus plural nouns
8. Nouns of two or three syllables in different frames
9. Verb suffixes and classes
10. Measures and counting
11. Stories told in Cherokee
12. Conversations

The CDs were created in the Phonetics Laboratory of the Department of Linguistics at Ohio State University with support from the National Science Foundation (grant #BCS-0080004 to Marcia Haag, University of Oklahoma and Keith Johnson, Ohio State University).

--Keith Johnson, Huang Tsan (Ohio State University)
Marcia Haag, Durbin Feeling (University of Oklahoma)

Reference

Feeling, Durbin & William Pulte. 1975. Cherokee-English Dictionary.

Tahlequah, OK: Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

145.5 POSITIONS OPEN

* Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Rice University
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>From Philip W. Davis (pwd@rice.edu) 19 Aug 2001:

The Department of Linguistics, Rice University, is seeking to fill a tenure-track position in linguistics at the level of assistant professor beginning Fall 2002. The Ph.D. is required.

The Department offers degrees at the B.A. and Ph.D. levels. The orientation of the Department is strongly functionalist and usage-based. The faculty adopts an integrative approach that is sensitive to language in its many contexts -- discourse, social, cognitive, historical, etc. We emphasize language description, typological generalizations, functional explanations, and fieldwork experience.

We expect the successful candidate to share the orientation of the Department, to have an active research program, and to have demonstrated excellence in teaching. Preference will be given to those who (1) have research experience in fieldwork on (a) non-Indo-European language(s), and (2) are comfortable teaching courses not only in their area(s) of specialization, but also in phonology and/or historical linguistics. The normal teaching load is two courses per semester.

Interviews will be held in January, 2002 at the LSA/SSILA meeting in San Francisco. For full consideration, applications including cover letter, CV, three letters of reference, and one representative article must be received by November 15, 2001. Reply to: Faculty Search, Department of Linguistics MS23, Rice University, 6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77005. E-mail: ling@ruf.rice.edu. Webpage: <http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~ling/>. AA/EOE.

* Linguistic anthropologist, Northern Illinois University
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>From Cecil Brown (T20CHB1@wpo.cso.niu.edu) 22 Aug 2001:

The Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University seeks either a cultural or linguistic anthropologist at the junior level

which address the theme of this year's conference, "Convergence and Divergence: Language Variation within and across Language Families."

Theme

While the bulk of theoretical work in linguistics has by and large relied on the convenient fiction that languages are stable, uniform synchronic systems that are consistent and self-contained across communities of speakers, linguists working on the languages of the Americas -- the majority of which are unwritten and have no normative or "standard" form -- have often been confronted with a startling degree of variation within what speakers consider to be a single language. Conversely, researchers working in well-established linguistic areas or Sprachbuende such as the Northwest Coast have found that what are patently different and genetically unrelated languages share a tremendous number of phonological and grammatical features.

>From the point of view of the theoretical linguist, both types of variation represent challenges to the view of a language as a discrete and homogeneous grammatical system and raise a number of important questions. To what extent and over what parameters can linguistic systems vary and remain mutually intelligible -- hence qualifying as dialects of a single language? If languages can, as amply illustrated by the languages of the Americas, borrow a wide range of phonological and grammatical features from other languages, what are the restrictions on this type of borrowing and how might these restrictions be related to the grammatical and typological properties of source and donor languages? And how do borrowed or innovative features created by dialectal variation interact with pre-existing features of the language, and what can this tell us about the nature of human language as a whole?

Invited speakers

-- Sarah Thomason (U of Michigan), "Prominence Marking in Verbal Arguments in Salish and Algonquian"

-- Leslie Saxon (U of Victoria), "Athapaskan Clause Structure and the Positions of Subjects and Objects"

-- Cecil Brown (Northern Illinois U), "How Mesoamerica Became a Linguistic Area"

-- Paul Kroeber (Indiana U), "Pre-verbal Positions in Tillamook and its Neighbors"

The invited student speaker will be:

-- Kiel Christianson (Michigan State U), "Stress, Pitch Accent, and Language Variation: Ojibwa vs. Odawa"

Following the tradition of the WSCLA, the final day of the workshop will be dedicated to linking research to work being done on language preservation and revitalization. This year the session will focus on incorporating linguistic knowledge into Native language curriculum. The invited speaker will be:

-- Ofelia Zepeda (U of Arizona), "The American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI)"

Her talk will be followed by a roundtable discussion by all workshop participants.

Submissions

Please submit a one-page abstract (a second page with references and extra examples may be included). Abstracts may be submitted electronically, either in the body of an e-mail message (if they include no special characters) or as e-mail attachments. The latter should be in PDF, Word, Rich Text Format, or WordPerfect formats, in descending order of preference; please specify and/or include any special fonts used. Paper abstracts may be submitted in four copies, at least one of which should be camera-ready. All submissions should provide the following items of information, separate from the abstract itself: (1) name, (2) address, (3) affiliation, (4) telephone and FAX number, (5) e-mail address, and (6) status (faculty/grad student/postdoc/independent scholar).

Limited funds may be available to offset travel expenses for graduate students. Indicate if you wish to be considered for a travel subsidy.

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail to <wscla7@ualberta.ca> or by snail mail to: LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS WORKSHOP, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Alberta, 4-32 Assiniboia Hall, Edmonton, AB T6E 2G7, Canada.

The deadline for abstracts to be received is Friday, January 11, 2002. The program will be announced in mid-February.

145.7 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

* Some more on-line language maps
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>From Matthew S Dryer (dryer@acsu.buffalo.edu) 13 Aug 2001:

My website contains a number of language family maps that I constructed several years ago, including five for North America:

- United States (small map, easy to see all at once, but details hard to see)
- United States (large map, cannot be seen on screen all at once, but one can scroll around and details are easier to see)
- California
- Pacific Northwest
- Canada

The page with links to these maps is at:

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/linguistics/dryer/family.maps>

It should be noted that these are all based on the Voegelin's map.

--Matthew Dryer
 University at Buffalo, SUNY
dryer@acsu.buffalo.edu

* Nahuatl pages at SIL-Mexico site
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>From Albert Bickford (albert_bickford@sil.org) 17 Aug 2001:

It is with pleasure that I announce the long-awaited posting of more of David Tuggy's web pages on Nahuatl. They are accessible through the Nahuatl family page on the SIL-Mexico website:

<http://www.sil.org/mexico/nahuatl/familia-nahuatl.htm>

This posting includes four pages on Nahuatl phonology and orthography, a reading list, and suggestions about other interesting Nahuatl websites. (If anyone knows of other sites that we should add to this list, we're open to suggestions.) All pages are available in English and Spanish and are intended for a non-specialist audience (technical linguistic terminology is explained through pop-up glossary entries).

Previously posted items of David's work are: Frequently asked questions about Nahuatl, Classical Nahuatl, and a glossary of linguistic terminology in English and Spanish. Still to come are two sets of pages on specific varieties of Nahuatl, Tetelcingo and Orizaba.

--Albert Bickford, SIL-Mexico
(albert_bickford@sil.org)

145.8 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Cyr, Danielledcyr@yorku.ca
James, Deborahjames@utsc.utoronto.ca
O'Neill, SeanSean.P.O-Neill@ou.edu
St.Clair, Robert N.rnstcl01@gwise.louisville.edu
Swift, Mary.....mswift@ling.rochester.edu
Wells-Jensen, Sheri.....swellsj@bgnet.bgsu.edu

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

Victor Golla, Secretary-Treasurer & Editor

P. O. Box 555
Arcata, California 95518-0555 USA

tel: 707/826-4324 - fax: 707/677-1676 - e-mail: golla@ssila.org

Website: <http://www.ssila.org>
