

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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182.1 Correspondence

* Amerindian electronic texts

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From Yuri Tambovtsev (yutamb@mail.cis.ru) 16 Nov 2002:

I have fed into my computer the Sweet Grass Cree texts from Bloomfield's "Sacred Stories of the Sweet Grass Cree" (1930), pp. 8-27. I've computed the frequencies of occurrence of separate phonemes and phonemic consonantal groups: 1) labial; 2) front; 3) mediolingual or palatal; 4) back (velar and glottal); 5) sonorant; 6) occlusive; 7) fricative and 8) voiced. I have compared their distribution in 31 portions of the Sweet Grass Cree to the analogical distributions in 120 world languages of different families: Finno-Ugric, Turkic, Tungus-Manchurian, Paleo-Asiatic, and Indo-European. The results are quite interesting. However, I'd like to compare my data with some other Amerindian languages. Could readers of the SSILA Bulletin tell me where I might obtain other Amerindian texts in electronic form?

--Yuri Tambovtsev
Novosibirsk Pedagogical University
Novosibirsk, Russia
(yutamb@hotmail.com)

182.2 Endangered Language Fund: Request for Proposals, 2003

From Doug Whalen (whalen@alvin.haskins.yale.edu) 23 Nov 2002:

The Endangered Language Fund, thanks to the generosity of its members, is once again able to offer small grants for work on endangered languages.

The Endangered Language Fund provides grants for language maintenance and linguistic field work. The work most likely to be funded is that which serves both the native community and the field of linguistics. Work which has immediate applicability to one group and more distant application to the other will also be considered. Publishing subventions are a low priority, although they will be considered. Proposals can originate in any country. The language involved must be in danger of disappearing within a generation or two. Endangerment is a continuum, and the location on the continuum is one factor in our funding decisions. Eligible expenses include consultant fees, tapes, films, travel, etc. Grants are normally for one year periods, though extensions may be applied for. We expect grants in this round to be less than \$4,000 in size, and to average about \$2,000.

There is no application form, but the information requested below should be printed (on one side only) and FOUR COPIES sent to:

The Endangered Language Fund
Dept. of Linguistics
Yale University
P. O. Box 208366
New Haven, CT 06520-8366 USA

Applications must be mailed in. No e-mail or fax applications will be accepted. Please note that regular mail, especially from abroad, can take up to four weeks. If you have any questions, please write to the same address or e-mail to elf@haskins.yale.edu.

The cover page of the application should include:

--Title of the project
--Name of the language and the country in which it is spoken
--Name & address of the primary researcher (include phone and e-mail)
--Social Security Number (if U.S. citizen)
--Place and date of birth
--Present position, education, and native language(s)
--Previous experience and/or publications that are relevant

Include the same information for collaborating researchers if any.

Beginning on a separate page, provide a description of the project.

This should normally take two pages, single spaced, but the maximum is five pages. Be detailed about the type of material that is to be collected and/or produced, and the value it will have to the native community (including relatives and descendants who do not speak the language) and to linguistic science. Give a brief description of the state of endangerment of the language in question.

On a separate page, prepare an itemized budget that lists expected costs for the project. Estimates are acceptable, but they must be realistic. Please translate the amounts into US dollars. List other sources of support you are currently receiving or expect to receive and other applications that relate to the current one.

Two letters of support are recommended, but not required. Note that these letters, if sent separately, must arrive on or before the deadline (April 21st, 2003) in order to be considered. If more than two letters are received, only the first two will be read.

A researcher can be primary researcher on only one proposal.

Applications must be received by APRIL 21, 2003. Decisions will be delivered by the end of May 2003.

Receipt of application will be made by email if an email address is given. Otherwise, the applicant must include a self-addressed post-card in order to receive the acknowledgment.

If a grant is awarded, before receiving any funds university-based applicants must show that they have met the requirements of their university's human subjects' committee. Tribally or otherwise-based applicants must provide equivalent assurance that proper protocols are being used.

If a grant is made and accepted, the recipient is required to provide the Endangered Language Fund with a short formal report of the project and to provide the Fund with copies of all audio and video recordings made with ELF funds, accompanying transcriptions, as well as publications resulting from materials obtained with the assistance of the grant.

For further information contact <elf@haskins.yale.edu>, or visit the ELF website:

<http://www.ling.yale.edu/~elf>

182.3 Positions Open

* Tenure-track position at Alaska Native Language Center

From Gary Holton (Gary.Holton@UAF.EDU) 15 Nov 2002:

The Alaska Native Language Center invites applications for a tenure-track position in Athabascan languages and linguistics at the Assistant Professor level, effective August 2003.

TYPICAL DUTIES: Research in Alaska Athabascan languages, especially in the fields of language documentation, language revitalization, language acquisition and second language pedagogy. Compilation of grammars, dictionaries and texts. Support for Native language revitalization efforts throughout the state of Alaska, including coordination with community-based organizations. Curriculum and materials development for Alaska Native languages. Teaching in the field of Alaska Native languages and linguistics (including distance delivery).

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Advanced degree in Linguistics or a related field (Ph.D. preferred). Experience working in endangered language communities and knowledge of Athabascan languages preferred.

APPLICATION: Please provide an Applicant Form, letter of interest, curriculum vitae, sample of recent work, and names and contact information for three references. The University of Alaska applicant form can be downloaded at:

http://www.alaska.edu/hr/forms/PDF_ent/applicant_form_ent.pdf

Submit all application materials to:

Dr. Lawrence Kaplan, Search Committee
c/o UAF Human Resources
3295 College Road, Room 108
PO Box 757860
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7860

The closing date is Jan 10, 2003.

A complete job vacancy announcement can be found at:

<http://www.uaf.edu/uafhr/jobs/Job1102-472.html>

For more information contact Lawrence Kaplan at (907) 474-6582 or <ffldk@uaf.edu>, or visit the ANLC website at:

<http://www.uaf.edu/anlc>

* Linguistic anthropologist at Southern Illinois University

From Andy Hofling (ahofling@siu.edu) 20 Nov 2002:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Department of Anthropology invites applications for a linguistic anthropologist, rank open, beginning August 16, 2003. Salary and rank dependent on qualifications. Applicants must have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. degree by starting date. This position forms part of the SIUC Faculty Strategic Hiring Initiative. Areal focus open, but Department is especially interested in languages and cultures of the Americas. Topical specializations open, but should complement those of a four-field oriented faculty. Active fieldwork experience, experience in descriptive linguistics and ethnography, and strength in cultural anthropology desired. Must have an established record of excellence in research and

collections and some 40,000 photographs. On-line catalogues have been created to a number of major archives and to some 15,000 printed books. Measures have also been taken to improve the physical storage of fragile materials and to conserve badly affected documents. The Mundus Gateway will continue to be maintained and updated at the School of Oriental and African Studies under the direction of the Archivist, Rosemary Seton.

182.5 Upcoming Meetings

* Symposium on Amerindian Linguistics (Mérida, Yucatán, February 24-28)

From Ramón Arzapalo (arzapalo@servidor.unam.mx) 22 Nov 2002:

An International Symposium on Amerindian Linguistics will be held in Mérida, Yucatán, February 24-28, 2003, sponsored by the Instituto de Investigaciones Antropológicas, UNAM, the Presidencia Municipal of Mérida, and the Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán. The theme of the Symposium will be LAS LENGUAS AMERINDIAS ANTE EL NUEVO MILENIO.

Objetivo general:

--Ofrecer un espacio apropiado para la presentación y discusión de trabajos recientes de los estudiosos dedicados a las lenguas amerindias.

Objetivos especmficos:

- Analizar los diversos modelos empleados para la descripción de las lenguas originarias de la América Latina, así como las aportaciones hechas por los lingüistas de esta región geográfica a la teoría lingüística.
- Fomentar la diversificación en el enfoque de los estudios lingüísticos, filológicos y literarios del ámbito amerindio, para conocer así, su realidad social y cultural.
- Difundir la relevancia de estos estudios para la sociedad en general, a través de foros de discusión que vinculen a estas lenguas con la educación, la política y la religión.
- Establecer lazos más estrechos con aquellos estudiantes interesados en estos campos de estudio, así como con investigadores de disciplinas afines.

Líneas temáticas del simposio:

1. Estudios de las estructuras lingüísticas (fonología, morfosintaxis, semántica, análisis del discurso)
2. Aportaciones teóricas de la lingüística indoamericana
3. La lingüística aplicada a las lenguas indoamericanas
4. Lengua, cultura y sociedad
5. Políticas del lenguaje
6. Lengua y literatura
7. Filología indoamericana
8. Estudios transdisciplinarios
9. OTRAS

including references. The language of the conference will be English. Papers will last twenty minutes, followed by another ten minutes of discussion. Workshops will last forty-five minutes, followed by another fifteen minutes of discussion. The selection of papers for presentation will have been communicated by April 15, 2003.

A web page is under construction at the moment. Further information on RRG2003, including a detailed program, accommodation information, fee payment, social events, etc., will be enclosed in subsequent announcements. Anyone interested in receiving further information should send a message to:

RRG2003@ibilce.unesp.br

182.6 E-mail Address Updates

The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA mailing list since the last Bulletin:

Arzápalo, Ramón arzapalo@servidor.unam.mx
Aylworth, Susan SHAYlworth@aol.com
Carlin, Eithne B. e.b.carlin@let.leidenuniv.nl
Jany, Carmen jany@umail.ucsb.edu
Kleinecke, David kleinecke@astound.net
Meira, Sérgio..... s.meira@let.leidenuniv.nl

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>
