

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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200.0 SSILA Business

* Ten years--200 Bulletins
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With this 200th edition, the SSILA Bulletin marks the tenth anniversary of its creation as an "information service for SSILA members." When Bulletin #1 was sent out on November 26, 1993, to a list of fewer than 200 e-mail addresses (including several dozen Bitnet addresses), it was a hesitant experiment. There seemed to be a need for an on-line publication to deliver fast-breaking news items--particularly announcements of meetings and job openings with short deadlines--that were unsuited to the more leisurely pace of the quarterly Newsletter. It was not clear, however, if the additional effort required would be sustainable over the long haul.

We need not have worried. As journalistic experiments go, this has been a remarkably successful one. The extra labor involved has turned out to be minimal--a few hours every two or three weeks on the part of the editor, an hour or so on the part of the associate editor. The benefit to the Society, moreover, has been significant. The Bulletin has evolved into a distinctive publication, distributed to over 1,000 addresses, which knits together the worldwide community of Americanist linguists. While the Newsletter, with its book notices and dissertation abstracts, its columns and its listings, remains SSILA's primary organ, the Bulletin has become the most visible symbol of the Society.

Ten years is a long time to keep something going, particularly on the Internet. And, we must admit, the biweekly schedule sometimes becomes tedious. But we think it's been worth it.

Happy Birthday, SSILA Bulletin!

--VG & SD

200.1 Correspondence

* Advice on fieldwork in Ecuador and Colombia?

From Rafael Fischer (R.W.Fischer@uva.nl) 7 Nov 2003:

I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, currently working on the language of the Cofan, a people living in the northeast of Ecuador and the southwest of Colombia. I would like to get in contact with people who might be working on this language, or any of the languages in the vicinity. I shall be doing fieldwork soon (Jan. 2004) and I would like to ask experienced fieldworkers for suggestions on the kind of equipment to use in the field (microphones, tape, mini-disc or dat recorders, video equipment, etc.). I would also appreciate suggestions on software apt for the transcription and analysis of the collected data. Suggestions on other types of software for handling audio and video recordings, are also very welcome. Finally, I would like to know whether any operating system is preferred above others for doing this kind of work.

--R. W. Fischer, M.A.
Universiteit van Amsterdam
Herengracht 338
1016 CG Amsterdam

* Bringing Yagan back

From Jess Tauber (phonosemantics@earthlink.net) 07 Nov 2003:

I've been working nonstop to compile and re-edit materials related to the Yagan language (also spelled Yahgan, Yakan, Iakan, Jagan, etc., as

well as alternate name (Kuta) Yamana), with an eye towards the creation of teaching materials as well as archiving. So far as I know mine is now the most comprehensive collection anywhere. Unless there is some other speaker I have not heard of, Yagan now has only one fluent speaker, Cristina Calderon. Her sister Ursula, also fluent, died early in the year.

Materials (published or manuscript) produced during the late 19th century include a number of grammars of varying degrees of coverage. In the 20th century work was much more intermittent and spotty. Very little has been done with regard to syntax, pragmatics, prosody -- I'm hoping to pursue this when I go down to Ukika (Isla Navarino) in Chilean Tierra del Fuego.

The language is highly unusual areally: its morphosyntactic type more resembles many languages of North America in what DeLancey has termed the "bipartite stem belt." Yagan has instrument/bodypart manner prefixes, pathway/location suffixes, and a great deal of verb serialization of other types. Yet it is largely case marking. The phonology is mostly on the lenis side, lacking in glottalized occlusives and resonants one often sees in languages further north. It also shares with its next door neighbor Kawesqar an extensive pattern of geographical marking on nouns and verbs.

Bringing Yagan back from the brink will be no easy task. But it is one I am willing to attempt. Any advice or help (for instance recommendations for models for the creation of teaching materials) would be appreciated.

--Jess Tauber
(phonosemantics@earthlink.net)

200.2 U of Victoria Working Papers Calls for Submissions on NW Languages

From David Robertson (ddr11@uvic.ca) 3 Nov 2003:

The University of Victoria Working Papers in Linguistics (WPLC) announces an open call for papers for our 2005 edition. Papers on any topic in linguistics are invited, and we encourage treatments of the indigenous languages of the Pacific Northwest. Submissions should be about 10 to 15 pages in length, preferably in PDF format. (Other formats are welcome, but please contact us in advance to make arrangements.) A style sheet, template, and website should be available soon, so check with WPLC for updates. Deadline for submission is January 31, 2004. E-mail submissions and inquiries may be directed to WPLC at <ddr11@uvic.ca>. By mail: WPLC, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Victoria, PO Box 3045, Victoria BC V8W 3P4, Canada.

--David Robertson
(ddr11@uvic.ca)

200.3 Upcoming Meetings

* Missionary/Colonial Linguistics (São Paulo, March 10-13) [Update]

From otto zwartjes (otto.zwartjes@kri.uio.no) 07 Nov 2003:

Two additions need to be made to the announcement of the 2nd International Conference on (Missionary) Colonial Linguistics (São Paulo, Brazil, March 10-13, 2004) that was posted in Bulletin #199.3:

--The deadline for submitting an abstract has been changed from the 15th of November to the 15th of December.

--We particularly wish to invite specialists on North American indigenous languages, particularly those who could present a paper on phonology/pronunciation/ orthography, using missionary sources from the beginning of the colonial period to about 1850 (Greenland, Canada and the United States).

For details of the conference, see:

<http://www.ub.uio.no/uhs/sok/fag/RomSpr/mislingbrasil/index.html>

* WAIL 7 (Santa Barbara, April 30 - May 2)

From Carmen Jany (cjany@umail.ucsb.edu) 4 Nov 2003:

The Linguistics department at the University of California, Santa Barbara announces its seventh annual Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL), which provides a forum for the discussion of theoretical and descriptive linguistic studies of indigenous languages of the Americas.

Anonymous abstracts are invited for talks on any topic in linguistics. Talks will be 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. Individuals may submit abstracts for one single and one co-authored paper. Abstracts should be 500 words or less and can be submitted by hard copy or e-mail.

For hard copy submissions, please send five copies of your abstract and a 3x5 card with the following information: (1) name; (2) affiliation; (3) mailing address; (4) phone number; (5) e-mail address; (6) title of your paper.

Send hard copy submissions to:

Workshop on American Indigenous Languages
Department of Linguistics
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

E-mail submissions are encouraged. Include the information from the 3x5 card (above) in the body of the e-mail message with the abstract as an attachment. Please limit your abstracts to the following formats: PDF, RTF, or Microsoft Word document.

The Center for Latin American Studies at the University of Chicago is pleased to present the electronic publication of "Aymar Arux Akhamawa: Aymara Language is Like This," by Miguel Huanca.

Approximately four million people in the Andean region of Bolivia, Peru, Chile and Argentina consider Aymara to be their native language, including over one-third of the population of Bolivia, making it one of the most widely-spoken indigenous languages in South America. For over a decade, the University of Chicago has been the only institution to offer regular Aymara instruction, supported with funding from US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grants. "Aymar Arux Akhamawa" is the only English-Aymara textbook available. This valuable resource is now made available at no cost for self-guided language learning via the world wide web, complete with digitally-recorded native-spoken dialogues, vocabulary supplements, original literature, and traditional song.

The on-line publication of this text can be found on the Center's website at:

<http://clas.uchicago.edu/thematic/aymara>

This is the second edition of the text developed by Miguel Huanca, who has taught 26 students in Aymara at the University of Chicago since 1994 through the biannual Aymara Summer Intensive Institute. The Summer Institute will next be offered in 2005. For more information about Aymara instruction at the University of Chicago Center for Latin American Studies, contact clas@uchicago.edu or (773) 702-8420.

--Josh Beck
Administrator, Academic Programs & Outreach
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(<http://clas.uchicago.edu>)

200.6 E-Mail Address Updates

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

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When your e-mail address changes, please notify us (golla@ssila.org).

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