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 ^^^^^

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 <ddrl1@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/faq/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.

Send e-mail submissions to:

wail@linguistics.ucsb.edu

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is January 15, 2004. Notification of acceptance will be by e-mail by February 15, 2004.

The UCSB campus is located near the Santa Barbara airport. Participants may also choose to fly into LAX airport in Los Angeles which is approximately 90 miles south of the campus. Shuttle buses run between LAX and Santa Barbara. Information about hotel accommodations will be posted on the web.

For further information contact the conference coordinator by e-mail (wail@linguistics.ucsb.edu) or phone (805-893-3776), or check out our website at:

http://orgs.sa.ucsb.edu/nailsg/

* Interfaces in Language Documentation (Frankfurt, Sept. 4-5)

From Jost Gippert (gippert@em.uni-frankfurt.de) 29 Oct 2003:

The DOBES (Documentation of Endangered Languages) Project of the Volkswagen Foundation will sponsor a conference on interdisciplinary research in language documentation—"A World of Many Voices: Interfaces in Language Documentation"—at the University of Frankfurt/Main, September 4-5, 2004, in conjunction with a summer school on the documentation of endangered languages.

The organizing team consists of Arienne Dwyer, Jost Gippert, Raquel Guirardello, David Harrison, Ulrike Mosel, Peter Wittenburg (DOBES members), and Marcel Erdal, Bernd Nothofer, and Rainer Vossen (local committee).

The conference will bring together experts in the field of language documentation and also representatives of endangered speech communities, and focuses on two themes:

- 1. The impact of language documentation techniques and technologies on linguistic methodologies and theories, such as new insights from research on (a) text corpora, (b) spontaneous spoken language, (c) non-verbal communication, and (d) the joint research of linguists and anthropologists.
- 2. The impact of active cooperation between speech communities and outside researchers on methods and goals and on power relationships between participants: (a) conflicts and compromises between the goals of the linguists and the speech community; (b) innovative cooperative methodology; (c) the linguists' contribution to language maintenance and revitalization.

Please send your one-page abstract (in any format) to Jost Gippert

(gippert@em.uni-frankfurt.de). The deadline for abstracts is February 1, 2004. Researchers who are members of endangered-language communities are particularly encouraged to submit abstracts.

Accepted papers will be allocated 20 minutes for presentation plus 10 minutes for discussion. To allow for in-depth discussion, conference sessions will be plenary, and the conference will conclude with a roundtable discussion. The organizers intend to publish the conference papers in printed form.

For further information visit the meeting website:

http://titus.fkidgl.uni-frankfurt.de/curric/dobes/conflcir.htm

200.4 Summer Programs

* Intensive Nahuatl Course (Yale U, June-July, 2004)

From Jonathan Amith (jonathan.amith@yale.edu) 10 Nov 2003:

Yale University Intensive Summer Nahuatl Institute, in collaboration with the University of Chicago, will offer an intensive immersion course in Nahuatl during the summer of 2004.

Although based on modern Nahuatl from San Agustín Oapan, the course will familiarize students with colonial and classical Nahuatl by using a wide range of texts and workbooks. The course is focused not only on developing conversational skills but on imparting an understanding and overview of the general grammatical structure of Nahuatl. Students will be able to apply their knowledge to their own thematic interests in any Nahuatl dialect that they might work with (ancient or modern). In addition, an effort is made to address the specific needs of students in different disciplines (e.g., anthropology, history, linguistics) and at different levels of expertise.

Graduate students, undergraduates, and independent scholars are invited to apply. Although a beginning course, students with previous experience in Nahuatl are also welcome. Students will be able to work intensively with native speakers and those who have previously acquired skills in Nahuatl will be given the flexibility for a greater concentration of their efforts on translation, individual projects, and direct work with native speakers. Classes are 3 hours per day, Monday through Friday, with the instructor and native speakers. Additional intensive work or tutorials with native speakers may be arranged upon request. Students will be provided with recording and playback facilities for language laboratory work and to conduct their own research and independent study.

The course meets all the requirements for FLAS fellowships. Limited possibility of FLAS assistance to graduate students outside of Yale (contact Yale Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies in the spring).

The course tuition is \$3,300. Room and board will be \$400-500/month. (To ensure housing students must send Yale Latin American Studies a non-refundable \$150 deposit at time of application. The deposit will be applied towards room and board costs.) An administrative fee of \$150 (payable to Yale CLAIS) will be charged. Travel costs and arrangements are the responsibility of the student.

The Yale course will run for 8 weeks during the months of June and July.

The application deadline is April 1. Students who plan on attending but are unable to meet this deadline should contact Yale CLAIS. Space is limited so applicants are encouraged to apply early. Before submitting an application, potential students must contact the coordinator, Beatriz Riefkohl (beatriz.riefkohl@yale.edu) by e-mail to arrange a phone discussion. She or the instructor, Jonathan Amith (jonathan.amith@yale.edu), may also be contacted for any further information.

* CILLDI 2004 (U of Alberta, July 5-23)

From Daghida (daghida@ualberta.ca) 13 Nov 2003:

The University of Alberta is pleased to present the fifth annual Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI), July 5-23, 2004. This program provides a unique opportunity to earn university credit while learning about selected Canadian Indigenous languages and cultures. Participants include undergraduate and graduate students interested in learning an Indigenous language or gaining expertise in the areas of linguistics, language and literacy, curriculum development, second language teaching and research.

In addressing issues of Indigenous language loss in Canada CILLDI has been expanding to include a wide range of courses based on needs expressed in Indigenous communities. In addition, we are planning several non-credit courses that lead to certification. Information about these courses will be available at a later date.

There is an application fee of \$60.00 (if not a U of A student). Tuition fees are: (undergraduate) \$576.60 per 3 credits, \$979.80 per 6 credits; (graduate) \$559.24 per 3 credits, \$1,118.48 per 6 credits. Costs in addition to tuition include housing and food (rooms \$20 - \$30 each day and meals approximately \$20, subject to change).

For further information contact Daghida at (780-492-4188; daghida@ ualberta.ca) or Heather Blair (780-492-0921; heather.blair@ualberta.ca).

200.5 Websites of Interest

* Aymara-English textbook on-line

From Josh Beck (jpbeck@midway.uchicago.edu) 10 Nov 2003:

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 Center for Latin American Studies University of Chicago (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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