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-- <<--

Number 203: December 30, 2003

203.0 SSILA Business

* Annual Business Meeting (Boston, January 10)

203.1 Correspondence

- * Article on indigenous languages of the NW? (J. Goggans)
- * Grotto Foundation publications available online (A. Cramblit)
- 203.2 Positions Open
 - * 3-year postoctoral fellowship at RCLT, La Trobe U, Melbourne
- 203.3 Upcoming Meetings
 - * 4th SALTMIL Workshop on Minority Languages (Lisbon, May 24)
- 203.4 New on the Internet
 - * UC-Berkeley Survey catalogue back online
 - * Lexicography discussion group
 - * Creek Language Archive
 - * New address for Cheyenne Language page
 - * Paper in Nature, critique
- 203.5 Correction
- 203.6 E-Mail Address Updates

203.0 SSILA Business

* Annual Business Meeting

The annual Business Meeting of SSILA will be held on Saturday, January 10, at 12:15 pm in the Independence room of the Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts, during the 2003-04 winter meeting of the Society. All members of SSILA are invited to attend.

Members who would like to make an announcement or place an item of new business on the meeting agenda should notify the President, Pamela Munro, at the earliest opportunity. She can be e-mailed at <munro@ucla.edu>.

203.1 Correspondence

* Article on indigenous languages of the NW?

From Jan Goggans (jegoggans@ucdavis.edu) 18 Dec 2003:

I am seeking a four to five thousand word essay for publication in a Greenwood Press volume. It will be part of a chapter on Languages of the Pacific Region. It should describe when and how indigenous language speakers (for California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska) spread into the region, and explain to some degree the process of linguistic contact between the indigenous language(s) and other (mainly European) languages, and the consequent distribution of languages spoken today in the area.

Although the stipend is not high, \$200, the publication is guaranteed. The timeline is quite short, unfortunately. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested.

--Dr. Jan Goggans
Pacific Regional Humanities Center
University of California Davis
Davis CA 95616
(jegoggans@ucdavis.edu)

* Grotto Foundation publications available online

From Andre Cramblit (andrekar@NCIDC.ORG) 17 Dec 2003:

The Grotto Foundation has been working with Minnesota's indigenous languages for some time and has released several online publications. These include:

"Native Languages As World Languages: A Vision for Assessing and Sharing Information About Native Languages Across Grantmaking Sectors and Native Country," by Richard LaFortune (Yupik).

"Encouragement, Guidance, Insights, and Lessons Learned for Native Language Activists Developing Their Own Tribal Language Programs," by Darrell R. Kipp, Co-Founder of the Piegan Institute.

You can download these documents from the following link:

http://www.grottofoundation.org/download_fset.html

--Andre Cramblit
Eureka, California
(andrekar@ncidc.org)

* 3-year postoctoral fellowship at RCLT, La Trobe U, Melbourne

From Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au) 18 Dec 2003:

Applications are invited for a three-year Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, to commence on July 1, 2004 (or soon thereafter).

Applicants should have been awarded their doctorates within the last five years. The University may consider cases in which the period is in excess of five years due to special circumstances. Applications will be considered from candidates whose thesis is currently under examination. Applicants must hold a doctoral degree or have equivalent qualifications at the date of appointment. La Trobe graduates should normally have a minimum of two years postdoctoral research experience at another institution. A Fellowship will not normally be awarded to an applicant who holds a permanent appointment within the University.

The Fellowship will be a three-year appointment and is intended to advance the research activities of the University by bringing to or retaining in Australia a promising scholar. The salary range is A\$48,400 to A\$51,954 per annum.

Inquiries should be directed initially to the Associate Director of RCLT, Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald (e-mail: <a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au>, phone: +61 3 9479 6402).

Further information and the application form may be obtained from the RCLT World Wide Web address:

http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rclt

The original application and five copies must be received by the Secretary of the RCLT Research Committee, no later than 27th February 2004. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

La Trobe University is an Equal Opportunity Employer and provides a smoke-free work environment.

203.3 Upcoming Meetings

* 4th SALTMIL Workshop on Minority Languages (Lisbon, May 24)

From Steven Bird (sb@cs.mu.oz.au) 20 Dec 2003:

The 4th International Workshop of the ISCA Special Interest Group on Speech and Language Technology for Minority Languages (ISCA SIG - SALTMIL), will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on May 24, 2004, as part of the 2004 International Language Resources and Evaluation Conference

(LREC). (For information on LREC see: http://www.lrec-conf.org/; for SALTMIL see: http://193.2.100.60/SALTMIL/).

Titled "First Steps for Language Documentation of Minority Languages: Computational Linguistic Tools for Morphology, Lexicon and Corpus Compilation," the workshop is intended to continue the series of SALTMIL/LREC workshops on computational language resources for minority languages, held in Granada (1998), Athens (2000), and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (2002). The Lisbon 2004 workshop aims to share information on tools and best practice, so that isolated researchers will not need to start from scratch. An important aspect will be the forming of personal contacts, which can minimize duplication of effort. Information on sources of funding for minority languages will also be presented, and there will be discussion on the strategic priorities that need to be addressed in this area. There will be a balance between presentations of existing language resources, and more general presentations designed to give background information needed by all researchers present.

The workshop will feature presentations of existing speech and text databases for minority languages, with particular emphasis on software tools that have been found useful in their development. Topics will include: Linguistic corpora, Automatic Speech Recognition, Acoustic modelling, Dictionary development, Language modelling, Natural Language Processing, Computational lexicography, Machine Translation, and Information retrieval.

The first session of the workshop will consist of invited talks focusing on current methodologies for language documentation and computational linguistic tools which are available for minority languages. These will include:

- --Dafydd Gibbon (U Bielefeld), "First steps in corpus compilation"
- --Xabier Artola (U of the Basque Country), "First steps in lexicon resources"
- --Bojan Petek (U of Ljubljana, Slovenia), "Experiences defining a network of excellence on portability of human language technologies"
- --Kenneth R. Beesley (Xerox [to be confirmed]), "First steps in morphology"

The second session will focus on programs and initiatives for supporting minority language documentation. The main aim of this session is to provide a forum for fostering new contacts among researchers working in this area.

Papers are invited that describe research and development in the area of Human Language Technology portability. All contributed papers will be presented in poster format. Each submission should include: title; author(s); affiliation(s); and contact author's e-mail address, postal address, telephone and fax numbers. Abstracts (maximum 500 words, plain-text format) should be sent via e-mail to Julie Berndsen (University College Dublin) at: <Julie.Berndsen@ucd.ie>. The deadline for abstract submission is 11th February 2004.

All contributions (including invited papers) will be printed in the workshop proceedings (CD). They also will be published on the SALTMIL website.

Submissions of papers for poster presentations should follow the same style as the ones for regular LREC paper and not be longer than 6000 words. The final details will be published as soon as they become available.

We allow simultaneous paper submission to the workshop and the LREC main conference. If a paper is accepted by both the conference and the workshop, the paper will be presented at the conference, rather than at the workshop. The author(s) should notify the workshop chair.

The registration fees for the workshop are 85 Euro if you are not attending LREC, or 50 Euro if you are attending LREC. These fees will include a coffee break and the Proceedings of the Workshop. Registration will be handled by the LREC Secretariat.

203.4 New on the Internet

* UC-Berkeley Survey catalogue back online

From Leanne Hinton (hinton@socrates.Berkeley.EDU) 18 Dec 2003:

I am pleased to announce that the catalog of the Survey of California and Other Languages, which was off-line for months due to a computer hack-in, is now on-line again. The catalog can be accessed at:

http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/Survey/archives.html

You can search by language, family, stock, collector or consultant. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment to visit the Survey, please contact me or the Survey assistant, Rainbow Willard (rainboww@socrates.berkeley.edu).

--Leanne Hinton University of California, Berkeley (hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu)

* Lexicography discussion group

From (wayne_leman@sil.org) 23 Dec 2003:

You are invited to join a Lexicography e-mail discussion group that I am organizing. Anyone active in lexicography fieldwork (including dictionary making) or teaching (or with a serious interest in lexicography) is welcome to join and contribute to the discussions.

The list will entertain discussion on any lexicographical topics of interest to the list members, including annoucements of research or publications, discussion of lexicography computer software, discovery procedures, lexical relations, universal semantic domains, aboriginal

group intellectual property rights, dictionary-making, etc. It will be open to anyone studying the lexicon of any language, but I suspect some of the most active members will be from SSILA.

The list website is at URL:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lexicographylist/

from which anyone may join. Or one may join by sending a message to:

lexicographylist-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

--Wayne Leman Cheyenne linguist (wayne_leman@sil.org)

* Creek Language Archive

From Jack Martin (jbmart@wm.edu) 22 Dec 2003:

Readers of the Bulletin may be interested in visiting the Creek Language Archive. This site is designed to make many of the published sources on Creek available to a wider audience as pdf files and html pages. It also provides basic information on Creek, including a short talking dictionary and sections from a textbook in progress. The URL is:

http://www.wm.edu/linguistics/creek

--Jack Martin College of Wiliam & Mary (jbmart@wm.edu)

* New address for Cheyenne Language page

From Wayne Leman (wayne_leman@sil.org) 23 Dec 2003:

The URL for the Cheyenne Language page has changed to:

http://www.geocities.com/cheyenne_language

--Wayne Leman Cheyenne linguist (wayne_leman@sil.org)

* Paper in Nature, critique

A provocative paper, "Language Tree Divergence Times Support the Anatolian Theory of Indo-European Origin," by Russell D. Gray and Quentin D. Atkinson, was published in the Nov. 27 issue of Nature. (For a summary see: http://www.nature.com/nsu/031124/031124-6.html). Using a method similar to (but, they argue, more sophisticated than)

glottochronology, based on the percentage of replacement of cognate lexical items, the authors construct a phylogenetic tree for Indo-European and calculate absolute dates for the divergences. They estimate that the initial divergence within the family took place about 8700 years ago, with Hittite as the first language to split off. This they take to support the theory that Indo-European originated in Anatolia and that Indo-European languages arrived in Europe with the spread of agriculture.

If valid, Gray and Atkinson's work would haves important implications for all historical linguists, not least those working with North and South American language families. SSILA member Bill Poser has posted a critical review of Gray and Atkinson's paper at:

http://itre.cis.upenn.edu/~myl/languagelog/archives/000208.html

203.5 Correction

In Bulletin 202.3 (Dec. 17) we mistakenly identified the co-manager of the Wakashan Linguistics Page as Ben Braithwaite. He is Ben Barrett. His co-manager, Adam Werle, was correctly identified, but he is in fact at the U of Massachusetts-Amherst, not the U of Washington as we implied. Our apologies for the confusion.

202 6 E Mail Addraga Undatos

203.6 E-Mail Address Updates

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

Barrett, Ben bjb5@u.washington.edu

Bird, Steven sb@cs.mu.oz.au

Bobaljik, Jonathan jonathan.bobaljik@uconn.edu

Busby, Ron rgb572000@yahoo.com

Hardy, Heather heather.hardy@colostate.edu

Heinemeyer, Annette heinemeyer1@cox.net

Ingham, Bruce bil@soas.ac.uk

Migliazza, Ernest ernestomigliazza@virgilio.it

Thornes, Tim tthornes@uoregon.edu
Werle, Adam nrwan@linguist.umass.edu

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

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