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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209.0 SSILA Business
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* Address being used for spam
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Note to SSILA members: If you receive any e-mail from me (Victor Golla)
at <gollav@axe.humboldt.edu>, it is spam, and any attachment that comes
with it may possibly contain a virus. I have not used this address for
several years. Although it still functions as an alias for my primary
mailbox, any mail that bears it as a return address is not a legitimate
message from me. If you can, you should add this address to the list
of return addresses that your spam filters are on the lookout for.

                                                              -- VG

209.1 Correspondence

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* Do you recognize this language?
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From Wayne Leman (wayne_leman@sil.org) 24 Apr 2004:

A friend who is a linguist in Canada recently sent me the following
message:

>This winter the Ethnologue people forwarded to me a request from a lady
>who had contacted them, who was eager to identify the language spoken
>on a recording she had been given long ago, which she highly values but
>doesn't understand. She thinks it's a native language of North America,
>and was sure it was Algonquin. After a few e-mail exchanges with her,
>she sent me a copy of part of the recording, and it's definitely not
>Algonquin or anything else I recognize. How about you? Does the
>attached sound-bite identify the language for you? This lady will
>greatly appreciate any feedback we can give her.
>
>Thank you!
>
>Ruth Spielmann

Like my Canadian friend, I have been unable to identify the language
from the sound clip. If any readers of the Bulletin would like to
give it a try, they should e-mail me and I will send the audio file.

                                              --Wayne Leman
                                       (wayne_leman@sil.org)

* Romani in Latin America
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From Sterpone Muntzel (sterpone@avantel.net) 29 Apr 2004:

A master's student at CIESAS, Mexico, is interested in starting up an
acquaintance with researchers working on Romani. His M.A. thesis is on
Colombian varieties of Romani. I'll pass along any responses.

                                          --Martha C. Muntzel
                                              INAH, Mexico DF
                                       (sterpone@avantel.net)

209.2 "Rosetta Stone" Software to Aid Mohawk Revitalization

From Ilse Ackerman (iackerman@RosettaStone.com) 19 Apr 2004:

Fairfield Language Technologies, developers of the "Rosetta Stone"
language-learning software, is proud to announce its collaboration
with the Mohawk community of Kahnawà:ke, near Montreal, to develop
language-learning software in the Mohawk language.

The Kahnawà:ke-Rosetta Stone collaboration aims to restore the use of
Mohawk in the community by targeting beginner learners who were not
raised speaking the language, or do not currently have access to it.
The program will be made available to the entire community, from adults
to schoolchildren.

"We are honored to join the community of Kahnawà:ke in this revitali-
zation effort," said Eugene Stoltzfus, President of Fairfield Language
Technologies. "The preservation of indigenous languages has been a
priority for Rosetta Stone from the beginning. This initiative will
benefit the community of Kahnawà:ke and will create awareness of a
powerful resource for the restoration of endangered languages
everywhere."

Traditional language-learning software teaches by translation, an
ineffective method for becoming fluent in a new language. Native
American languages such as Mohawk are richly different from their
European counterparts, and much meaning is lost in the attempt to
equate them with English or French. Rosetta Stone supersedes the
translation method by associating new language directly with meaning,
using native speakers, text, and authentic, real-life images. Mohawk
learners will be able to work through thousands of fluent phrases,
rapidly acquiring the ability to read, write, speak, and think in
Mohawk without reference to another language.

The Kahnawà:ke community is on the forefront of language restoration
efforts in North America. They started the first indigenous language
immersion school in Canada, in 1980, which soon became a model for
communities all over North America. In 1999, prompted by community
elders, the Kahnawà:ke Language Law was enacted, establishing
Mohawk as the primary language of communication, education, ceremony,
government, and business in Kahnawà:ke.

Fairfield Language Technologies, founded in 1991, publishes Rosetta
Stone Language Library, an immersion-based language-learning software
on CD and online that is acclaimed for its speed, ease-of-use, and
effectiveness. It is used by more than 5 million language learners
in over 100 countries. Fairfield's pioneer partner in indigenous
language preservation was the Seminole tribe of Florida, in the pro-
duction of software for the Miccosukee language. The company is
presently involved in language revitalization efforts with other native
communities. For more information, see:

        http://www.RosettaStone.com/languagerescue

209.3 Upcoming Meetings
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* Siouan and Caddoan Languages (Wayne, Nebraska, June 11-13)
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From Catherine Rudin (CaRudin1@wsc.edu) 23 Apr 2004:

I'd like to remind everyone about the upcoming 24th annual Siouan and
Caddoan Languages Conference, June 11-13, in Wayne, Nebraska. Anyone
interested in Siouan or Caddoan languages is invited to attend and
encouraged to submit a paper or presentation. The program will be put
together in early May, so anyone wishing to present should contact the
organizer ASAP. The "official" abstract deadline is May 1, but we're
pretty flexible about late submissions. E-mail a title and a brief
abstract to me at (carudin1@wsc.edu). Full information about the
conference is available under "Upcoming Events" on the SSILA website.

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--Catherine Rudin
Wayne State College
Wayne, Nebraska
(carudin1@wsc.edu)

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209.4 Summer Institutes & Workshops
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* Tutorial: IT support for small languages (Göteborg, June 9-10)
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>From Lars Borin (lars.borin@SVENSKA.GU.SE) 29 Apr 2004:

A tutorial on IT support for small languages will be held on June 9-10
at Göteborg University, Sweden, immediately preceding the Joint Inter-
national Conference of the Association for Literary and Linguistic
Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities, June 11
to 16, 2004.

Modern information and communication technologies can potentially be
of enormous help in the preservation of endangered languages. One can
envision many ways in which digital recording and storage technologies,
the internet, multimedia, e-learning, corpus linguistics, language
technology and other kinds of IT could be employed in support of small
and threatened language communities.

The aim of this two-day tutorial is to provide an up-to-date overview of
this important area. It will cover topics such as:

  -- Uses of IT in support of small languages (general documentation,
     resource creation, revitalization, teaching/learning, status raising,
     etc.)
  -- Digital documentation of (small) languages:
        - general
        - modalities (writing, speech, video, etc.)
        - resource types (corpora, lexicons, etc.)
        - standards, formats
        - intellectual property rights and ethical issues
  -- Language technology for language support
  -- Community-related multimedia products

The organizers are:

        Prof. Peter Austin

Director, Endangered Languages Programme
        SOAS, University of London, UK
        (http://www.hrelp.org/acad_staff_pa.htm)

        Prof. Lars Borin
        Chair, Natural Language Processing
        Göteborg University, Sweden
        (http://svenska.gu.se/~svelb/)

Also taking part in the tutorial will be:

        Jens Allwood (Göteborg)
        Éva Csató Johanson (Uppsala)
        David Nathan (SOAS)
        Trond Trosterud (Tromsø)

You can register for the tutorial using the main ALLC/ACH conference
registration form (http://www.hum.gu.se/allcach2004/Reg/). The tutorial
fee is 625 SEK (incl VAT) (about 70 Euro), which includes lunch and
coffee/tea. Note that it is possible to register only for the tutorial;
you don't need to register for the main conference.

The tutorial webpage: http://svenska.gu.se/~svelb/ALLC-ACH-04/
The ALLC/ACH conference website: http://www.hum.gu.se/allcach2004/

If you have questions, contact Lars Borin (lars.borin@svenska.gu.se).

* 2004 NILI Workshop (Eugene, July 6-23)
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From Scott DeLancey (delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu) 23 Apr 2004:

The 2004 Northwest Indian Language Institute (NILI) Workshop will be
held at the University of Oregon, in Eugene, from July 6 to July 23.

This year's NILI summer program will focus on language learning,
language teaching and methodology, TPRStorytelling, materials
development, computer materials generation, storytelling, and song.

Classes and instructors will include:

    Language Instruction (2 credit hours)
        Sahaptin - Virginia Beavert
        Chinuk Wawa - Henry Zenk
        Northern Paiute - Ruth Lewis (hopefully) and Tim Thornes

    Intro to Linguistics for Teachers and Students of Northwest Languages
        (2 credit hours)- Tim Thornes

    Advanced Linguistic Study with Scott DeLancey in Klamath, Sahaptin,
        Chinuk, Northern Paiute, Wasco (2 credit hours)

    Teaching methods and materials (2 credit hours) - Judith Fernandes
        Immersion teaching: a brief how-to

    Material Development (1 credit hour) - Janne Underriner and Judith

Fernandes

     Evaluation - Gloria Muniz
          Creating a teacher evaluation form based on indigenous teaching
          and learning styles

     Technology (1 credit hour) - Modesta Minthorn
          Practical use of the computer to make what you want and need

     Special workshops

                    TPRStorytelling - Adapted to Native Language Teaching
                    Songs
                    Storytelling
                    Grant writing
                    Watered-down English Grammar
                    Indian law (tentative)

Any questions about NILI can be directed to:

          Janne Underriner, Director (jlu@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

209.5 New on the Internet
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* Yahgan discussion list on Yahoo Groups
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From Jess Tauber (phonosemantics@earthlink.net) 22 Apr 2004:

I have started a Yahgan language discussion list (Waata Chis 'Old News')
on Yahoo Groups. This is a moderated discussion primarily about Yahgan
linguistic issues, but also about relevant related concerns such as
history, anthropology, ecology, etc.

The homepage is at:

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

It has links to several linguistic papers online and to an online 60-
minute-long, award-winning video where you can hear a great deal of
spoken Yahgan (otherwise in Spanish, with English subtitles).

                                              --Jess Tauber
                                    (phonosemantics@earthlink.net)

209.6 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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Koontz-Garboden, Andrew ........... andrewkg@csli.stanford.edu
Nading, Linda L. .................. lnading@istar.ca
Nagai, Tadataka ................... fttn@uaf.edu
Seeley, Nicole .................... nicole@coppercanoe.com
Souter, Heather ................... michiflanguage@fastmail.fm
Torbert, Benjamin ................. bct1@duke.edu
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When your e-mail address changes, please notify us (golla@ssila.org).