

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 222: May 12, 2005

222.1 Correspondence

- * Response to Proulx on Algonquian fonts (C.Harvey)
- * The "talako" mystery solved (A.Broadwell, J.France, C.Masthay)
- * Help sought in publishing data on numeral systems (E.Chan)

222.2 Positions Open

- * American Indian Languages at Lane C.C. (Eugene, Oregon)

222.3 Upcoming Meetings

- * Dene (Athabaskan) Language Conference (Victoria, BC, June 6-7)
- * Historical Linguistics in South America (Belém, Aug 27-Sept 2)

222.4 Websites of Interest

- * Day-by-day map of Lewis & Clark expedition
- * Tohono O'odham bibliography

222.5 Films on Endangered Languages (an ELL thread)

222.6 E-Mail Address Updates

222.1 Correspondence

* Response to Proulx on Algonquian fonts

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From Chris Harvey (lg@languagegeek.com) 3 May 2005:

I would like to respond to Paul Proulx's comments (SSILA Bulletin #219) on my article in the Papers of the 35th Algonquian Conference, "Unicode as a Standard Framework for Syllabics and Other Special Characters."

Proulx claims that my paper was an advertisement for Tavultesoft's Keyman keyboard software. At the time I wrote the article, the latest version of Keyman was free software. Keyboards created on the earlier versions of Keyman (as are all keyboards available on my website, languagegeek.com) are still free. I am in no way a spokesperson for Tavultesoft or their products. Tavultesoft was mentioned only once, in a footnote.

Obviously I am not claiming that there are no free fonts that will write Algonquian languages, as my own free fonts will do so. One of the purposes of my presentation at the Algonquian conference was to explain the benefits and limitations of employing Unicode to render Native languages and linguistic orthographies, as well as discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using "Legacy" fonts like Proulx's own Algic4WP.

There are several Unicode fonts available for free download that should provide the linguist or Native speaker with all of the glyphs necessary for their work. Proulx's Algic4WP, however, is not Unicode compliant, and consequently has a non-standard encoding. This means that any document written using it needs to be read with exactly the same font. If your computer does not have Algic4WP already installed, any document created in it is likely to be illegible. By using a Unicode font, this problem is avoided, since all Unicode fonts (by definition) use the same character encoding. I would be able to read, for example, any e-mail containing Algonquian example sentences if the sender was using a Unicode font.

Furthermore, Algic4WP does not contain any syllabics characters, so syllabic Cree, Ojibway, Naskapi, and Oji-Cree can not be written with it.

While it is true that Proulx's font can be freely distributed and modified, this is by far the exception. Virtually all fonts (including free fonts) have been copyrighted by their designers. As I understand the laws, users may modify a font, but modified fonts cannot be distributed to others. This makes sense. Designers want to keep track of the versions of their fonts: if "Times" on my computer is encoded differently from "Times" on your computer, we will have difficulty in reading each other's documents.

--Chris Harvey
University of Manitoba
(lg@languagegeek.com)

* The mystery of "talako" solved
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>From George Aaron Broadwell (g.broadwell@albany.edu) 19 Apr 2005:

A recent number of the SSILA Bulletin had an inquiry from Jack France about the origin of the word "talako", the name of a Boy Scout lodge. I believe it is possible to confirm that it is Choctaw and refers to a species of eagle, probably the golden eagle.

It is listed in two 19th century dictionaries of Choctaw (those of Byington and Watkins) with the meaning 'gray eagle'. The Watkins dictionary has <tahlako> and the Byington dictionary has <taLako>, where L is barred l.

The Oklahoma Choctaw speaker I checked with didn't recognize the word, so perhaps it is (nearly?) obsolete there. I also don't seem to have it in any of the lists of bird names that I collected for Mississippi

Choctaw. From the two dictionaries, it's not clear to me what the correct Choctaw pronunciation should be. Choctaw spelling in the 19th century was unfortunately not so clear on the difference between spelling the voiceless lateral fricative /L/ and the combination of the letters "h" and "l". They often wrote them in exactly the same way, leaving it up to the speaker to know the correct pronunciation. So it might be "tahlako", or it might be "taLako". If there are speakers who still know the word, that could resolve the correct pronunciation.

As for the meaning, it's not completely clear what these dictionaries meant by 'grey eagle'. I would guess it is probably what is more usually called the 'golden eagle'. The 19th century dictionaries list different words for 'bald eagle' (ibalhumpa) and for 'eagle' in general (onsi).

--Aaron Broadwell
University at Albany, SUNY
(g.broadwell@albany.edu)

From Jack France (francejr@sbcglobal.net) 20 Apr 2005:

Thank you all for your help in identifying the language from which TALAKO comes, in the name of the Talako Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society within the Boy Scouts of America. In addition to the message from Dr. Broadwell (above) I have also received similar information from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Tribal Council and from Prof. John Dyson, Indiana University. Rita Lewis, at the University of Mississippi, also refers to two other dictionaries:

"English to Choctaw Dictionary," City Council of Choctaws (1981).

"Choctaw Social and Ceremonial Life," Choctaw Council (1983).

--Jack France
Talako Lodge, BSA
(francejr@sbcglobal.net)

From Carl Masthay (cmasthay@juno.com) 20 Apr 2005:

Oh well! I withdraw my suggestion (in Bulletin #221) that "takako" originated in the Unami Lenape word for 'sandhill crane'. Jack France has clearly received the right answer from Aaron Broadwell.

I've just looked at my copy of Cyrus Byington's "A Dictionary of the Choctaw Language" (BAE, 1915), and found that I didn't check the crossed-el spelling: talako (or talhako) for the bilateral voiceless fricative, and there it is on pages 340 and 437: talako, talaka, talakhatta, 'the grey eagle' (bold face a is like "u" in "but").

Bad for me to have erred so!

--Carl Masthay
St. Louis, Missouri
(cmasthay@juno.com)

* Help sought in publishing data on numeral systems
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From Eugene S. L. Chan (euslchan@yahoo.com) 29 Apr 2005:

I have collected full and accurate data on the numeral systems of about 3,000 of the world's languages, most of it provided to me first-hand by linguists. Unfortunately, because most people in Hong Kong are not interested in the study of minority languages, I have not been able to find research funds to publish either this material or the manuscript I have prepared on Austronesian numeral systems. I am looking for financial support from people who appreciate minority languages and the cultural heritage of humanity. Any help in seeking support will be greatly appreciated.

--Eugene Chan
Hong Kong
(euslchan@yahoo.com)

222.2 Positions Open

* American Indian Languages at Lane Community College (Eugene, Oregon)
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From Jerry Hall (hallj@lanecc.edu) 10 May 2005:

The letter below announces an endowed position to initiate an American Indian Languages curriculum here at Lane Community College. Please share this letter and if you can, please submit nominations for this endowed position.

--Jerry D. Hall, Coordinator, American Indian Languages
Lane Community College
Eugene, Oregon

Lane Community College, in Eugene, Oregon, is pleased to announce an endowed position to initiate an American Indian Languages curriculum. As you might know, Lane has been making plans for several years to offer students the opportunity to study native languages. The recent anonymous gift of funds for an endowed chair will finally make this possible. The endowment will rotate among the college's instructional divisions on a regular basis and the first Endowed Chair position will be in American Indian Languages.

President Mary Spilde recently announced that for 2005-06 the college's first Endowed Chair will be bestowed on a recognized scholar of native languages with an emphasis on the Northwest. The Chair position will oversee the development and implementation of a course of study for 100 and 200 level language classes in the Division of Language, Literature & Communication. In addition, the Chair will join others in leading LCC toward a form of Native American Studies certification and maintain contact with tribal and campus communities throughout the area.

At their April 2005 meeting, LCC's Board of Education approved the offering of an American Indian Language course of study to be offered beginning Fall 2005 with the following goals: (1) support the development of a course of instruction in a Northwest Indian language; (2) offer a sequence of classes at both 100 and 200 levels, and (3) establish articulation with the Oregon University System and with tribal benchmarks for student achievement and assessment. The Endowed Chair will work closely with the instructor of these classes to meet these goals.

Because of the timeline for the position, details of the role and job description will be negotiated by the invited Chair and the college.

You can help us with this process, if you would grant us a favor. We hope you will let us know of any scholars of Northwest Indian languages whom you could recommend. We would also welcome a brief comment about your nominees' qualifications. Based on the nominations received, the American Indian Languages Committee will send invitations to selected candidates to apply for the Endowed Chair position. The committee hopes to make final recommendations by the end of spring term.

You can also help us by sharing this good news with your community. We need to close nominations by May 23, 2005.

Please send information to:

Susan Carkin, Chair
Division of Language, Literature & Communication
Lane Community College
4000 East 30th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97405
(tel: 541.463.5419; fax: 541.463-4162)
(carkins@lanecc.edu)

222.3 Upcoming Meetings

* Dene (Athabascan) Conference (Victoria, June 6-7)

From Gary Holton (gary.holton@UAF.EDU) 2 May 2005:

A small amount of funding is available to assist with travel costs to the conference. Awards are likely to be at most Can \$500 and will be handled as a reimbursement for actual expenses only. To receive a reimbursement, applicants will need to submit original receipts for airline tickets, and all boarding passes. If travel is by vehicle, indicate mileage and the cost of airfare for comparison.

To apply for a travel award, send an e-mail directly to the conference organizer, Leslie Saxon (saxon@uvic.ca). Note your affiliation and status (eg., student, unemployed, etc.) and whether or not you intend

to present a paper at the conference. Also indicate if you are a Dene speaker or heritage learner. To ensure full consideration, applications should be made as soon as possible.

Other information on the meeting can be found on the Athabascan Conference web page:

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

* Historical Linguistics in South America (Belém, August 27-September 2)

From Sidi Facundes (sidi@ufpa.br) 11 May 2005:

An "International Symposium on Historical Linguistics in South America" will be held in Belém, Pará, Brazil, from August 27 to September 2, 2005, hosted by the Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi and the Universidade Federal do Pará.

The Symposium will address such questions as: What is the current state of knowledge of the historical development of indigenous languages of South America? What can this knowledge teach us about the (pre)history of the indigenous people? What do we know about the relationships involving the genetic groups and their internal classification? What are the typological properties that can be associated with the indigenous languages of South America, and how did their evolution or acquisition take place? Which properties are due to influence by contact among languages (genetically related or not) and not to transmission from a mother tongue? Which inferences can be made about culture, proto-culture and population migration on the basis of linguistic data?

Looking for answers to these questions, a number of linguists met at international workshops on "Exploring the Linguistic Past: Historical Linguistics in South America" in Leiden in 2003 and in Eugene (Oregon) in 2004. This series of workshops has been funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO), with local support from the host Institutions.

Some of the issues discussed at these workshops have included: the Tu-Ka-Jê hypothesis (possible genetic relationship among the Tupí, Karib and Jê groups); nasal evolution and spreading; possible areal phenomena in the Northwest Amazon; and the results from the Tupí Comparative project, with new information on the internal classification of this group.

This year's Symposium will follow up these workshops with a wide-ranging general meeting. The goals are:

- (1) Exchange information among researchers working on linguistic history and prehistory in South America,
- (2) stimulate the dialogue among historical linguistics, anthropology, archeology and genetics so that specialists from these fields can gain the perspective from other sciences,
- (3) publicize the results reached through the previous workshops, and

(4) stimulate interest in research on the historical development of indigenous languages of South America.

The symposium will bring together specialists in diachronic linguistics, anthropology, archeology, and human biology, as well as specialists (including graduate students) working on descriptions of indigenous languages of South America, especially those whose work has comparative-historical significance.

In this way, the symposium will serve as medium for sharing and further development of the results from the previous workshops, as well as sharing the results produced by other groups working on historical-comparative research on South America from the point of view of linguistics and related disciplines.

The organizing committee includes: Ana Vilacy Galúcio (MPEG), Carmen Lúcia Reis Rodrigues (UFPA), Denny Moore (MPEG), Marília de Nazarí de Oliveira Ferreira (UFPA), and Sidney da Silva Facundes (UFPA).

Paper Submission

Papers dealing with or relevant to diachronic linguistics (genetic relationships between languages, reconstruction using the comparative method, internal reconstruction, diachronic syntax, inferences about prehistory, evolution of typological characteristics, areal linguistics, effects of language contact, and other relevant themes) are preferred.

Abstracts should be submitted by e-mail to:

silhas@ufpa.br
or silhas@museu-goeldi.br

Abstracts will be accepted between May 13 and June 30, 2005.

Contact information for each author must be submitted via webform using the form available at the conference website:

<http://www.ufpa.br/silhas>
or <http://www.museu-goeldi.br/silhas>

No author information should appear anywhere in the abstract.

At the time of submission you will be asked whether you would like your abstract to be considered for a poster or a paper.

Although each author may submit as many abstracts as desired, we will accept for presentation a maximum of 01 paper per participant as single author plus 01 as co-author. Auditors will also be accepted.

Each abstract is blind reviewed by reviewers from a panel of international scholars. Abstracts will be accepted in Portuguese, English, Spanish or French. Further information about the review process is available at the conference website (above).

Acknowledgment of receipt of the abstract will be sent by email as soon as possible after receipt from reviewers. Notice of acceptance or

rejection will be sent to first authors only, in July 30, by e-mail. Pre-registration materials and preliminary schedule will be available in late July 2005.

Full versions of the papers given at the symposium can be submitted for publication (at a date to be announced) to be reviewed by ad hoc referees and, if selected, will appear in an international publication. Poster presentations will be published in electronic version only.

Further information regarding the symposium, including lodging and crash space, may be accessed at the website above or by contacting Ana Vilacy (avilacy@museu-goeldi.br) or Sidi Facundes (sidifacundes@aol.com).

222.4 Websites of Interest

* Day-by-day map of 1805-06 Lewis & Clark expedition

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Raven Maps & Images (Medford, Oregon) has posted an on-line map that shows, each day, the route travelled by the Lewis and Clark expedition on that date exactly 200 years before. You can access it at:

<http://www.ravenmaps.com/Detail.bok?no=2>

* Tohono O'odham bibliography

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Tumacacori National Historical Park has posted on its web site a 915-page annotated bibliography of the Tohono O'odham (Papago Indians) and of Mission San Xavier del Bac and, by extension, the Spanish and Mexican-period history of the Pimería Alta. It is in word searchable form and can be directly accessed at:

<http://www.nps.gov/tuma/bibliography>

The bibliography is the culmination of an effort that began in 1956.

222.5 Films on Endangered Languages (an ELL thread)

[The Endangered Languages List recently had a thread on documentary films. Some of the films mentioned deal with endangered American languages and may be of interest to Bulletin readers. --Ed.]

From Ole Stig Andersen (osa@olegstig.dk) 5 May 2005:

I am looking for TV documentaries and films about Endangered Languages, or where language endangerment or revitalization is part of the story

told. I am only aware of two such productions: "Vanishing Voices" on Chulym (Turkic) by American PBS and "De lêste lûden fan in taal" ("The last sounds of a language") by Frisian Television, also on Siberian lgs, I believe. But surely there must be (many?) more?

--Ole Stig Andersen, Copenhagen

From Josep Cru (j.cru@UNESCOCAT.ORG) 5 May 2005:

Some friends here in Barcelona (Milana Bonita) produced a nice documentary (48") on three endangered languages of Mexico (Lacandon, Mayo and Popoluca) entitled "Ultima palabra" (Last Word). More info at:

<http://www.linguapax.org/congres/taller/ultima-palabraeng.html>

The video tape can be purchased at:

<http://www.ciemen.org/botiga.htm>

--Josep Cru
Linguapax-UNESCOCAT, Barcelona

From Nicholas Ostler (nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk) 5 May 2005:

There is a substantial section on endangerment and revitalization (25% of the whole), paradoxically, in the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office's video "Beyond Babel" (London Television Service, for Infonation, 2002). It is now available as a 2 DVD set. Infonation is at: FCO, Room K557, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH (Tel. +44-20 7270 067). There's a review by Ron Blythe in "English World-Wide" 24.2, 2003, pp. 299-303.

There are also:

"Finding our Talk - Parler pour Survivre: a journey into Aboriginal Languages." 13 part series about Canadian native languages, with Cree, English and French versions. Produced by Mushkeg Media Inc., in association with APTN (Aboriginal People's Television Network), 103 Villeneuve St. W, Montreal, Quebec H2T 2R6 Canada (+1-514-279-3507, mushkeg@videotron.ca).

"Tupe - a forgotten village in the Andes." (Features the Jaqaru language.) 25 mins. (c) 2002/KFTV. Stef de Haan, Casper Haspels, Jos Kuijer, Kuijer Film- & TV Produkties, Singel 272, 1016 AC Amsterdam (+31-20-624-0181, kftv@nbf.nl).

"So They Can Know." (Kimberley Language Resource Centre, Language Nests. Features Bunuba, Gooniyandi, Kija langs.) 11.40 mins (c) 1997 KLRC PMB 11 Halls Creek WA 6770 Australia (+61-8-9168-6005, klrhc@pegasus.oz.au).

"The Voice of the Land is in our Languages." (Features Micmac, Mohawk, Ojibwe, Anishnabe, Sauteaux, Northern Cree, Plains Cree, Chipewyan, Secwepemc, Siksika, Southern Tutchone.) The Education Secretariat, The Assembly of First Nations, 1 Nicholas St., Suite 1002, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7, Canada (+1-613-241-6789).

"The Last Word." (Features Lacandon, Mayo and Popoluca of Mexico) (c)
Milana Bonita 2003. Directed by Grau Serra (azarias@milanabonita.com).

--Nicholas Ostler
Foundation for Endangered Languages, UK

222.6 E-Mail Address Updates

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

Carkin, Susan carkins@lanecc.edu
Chan, Eugene Sai Lam euslchan@yahoo.com
Czaykowska Higgins, Ewa ecih@shaw.ca
Fabre, Alain alain.fabre@tut.fi
Fillmore, Laura fillmore4@charter.net
Lanz, Linda lanz@rice.edu
Weir, Helen helen.weir1@btopenworld.com

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

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