

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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- * Lg and Indigenous Knowledge, ICA-52 (Seville, July 17-21, 2006)

225.3 E-Mail Address Updates

225.0 SSILA Business

* Annual Meeting reminder
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Members are reminded that abstracts for the 2005-06 annual winter meeting (Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 5-8) are due at the SSILA office on September 1, 2005. The Call for Papers and other information can be found at the SSILA website (<http://www.ssila.org>).

* Nominations for the Ken Hale Prize
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The Ken Hale Prize is presented annually by SSILA in recognition of outstanding community language work and a deep commitment to the documentation, maintenance, promotion, and revitalization of indigenous languages in the Americas. The Prize (which carries a \$500 stipend) honors those who strive to link the academic and community spheres in

the spirit of Ken Hale, and recipients can range from native speakers and community-based linguists to academic specialists, and may include groups or organizations. No academic affiliation is necessary.

Nominations for the award may be made by anyone, and should include a letter of nomination stating the current position and affiliation, if appropriate, of the nominee or nominated group (tribal, organizational, or academic), and a summary of the nominee's background and contributions to specific language communities. The nominator should also submit a brief portfolio of supporting materials, such as the nominee's curriculum vitae, a description of completed or on-going activities of the nominee, letters from those who are most familiar with the work of the nominee (e.g. language program staff, community people, academic associates), and any other material that would support the nomination. Submission of manuscript-length work is discouraged.

The 2005 Ken Hale Prize will be announced at the Albuquerque meeting in January 2006. The members of this year's selection committee are Pamela Bunte (chair), Nora England, Michael Krauss, and Roberto Zavala Maldonado.

The nomination packet should be sent to the chair:

Pamela Bunte
Dept. of Anthropology
CSU Long Beach
Long Beach, CA 90840

The deadline for receipt of nominations is September 30.

Nominations will be kept active for two subsequent years for prize consideration and nominators are invited to update their nomination packets if so desired. Inquiries can be e-mailed to Dr. Bunte at <pbunte@csulb.edu>.

* The Mary R. Haas Award

The Haas Award is presented, usually annually, to a junior scholar for an unpublished manuscript (often, but not necessarily, the author's dissertation) that makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of the indigenous languages of the Western Hemisphere. Manuscripts must be of monograph length and reflect substantial empirical research. Typically, these are descriptive and issue-oriented grammars or historical and typological studies, but there are no restrictions on subject-matter other than a requirement that the primary focus be on one or more indigenous American languages.

The award carries no stipend, but the selected manuscript is eligible for publication in the University of Nebraska Press series, Studies in the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, which is reserved specifically for the recipients of the Mary R. Haas Award. The series is published in association with the American Indian Studies Research Institute at Indiana University, and is edited by Douglas Parks.

To submit a manuscript for the Haas Award, send one hard copy of the manuscript, together with 5 copies on CD, to:

Pamela Munro
Chair, Haas Award Committee
Department of Linguistics
UCLA, Box 951543
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1543

The CD copies should preferably be in pdf format (to minimize difficulties in displaying special fonts). If that is a problem, or no special fonts are used, Word or rtf documents are also acceptable. If you submit non-pdf files, please include a copy of all the non-standard fonts used on the disks. Submissions should be received by Professor Munro no later than September 15. All questions should be directed to her (munro@ucla.edu).

In addition to Professor Munro, the members of the 2005 Haas Award committee are Andrew Garrett, Sérgio Meira, Douglas R. Parks, and David S. Rood.

225.1 Correspondence

* Indigenous language translators?
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From Megan Conyers (mconyers@troy.edu) July 17, 2005:

My name is Megan Conyers, and I represent the Allen Castro Group in Cairo, Georgia. We interpret and translate for various entities here in the Southeastern US. One problem we often encounter is that many of the Hispanics we deal with primarily speak various indigenous languages (i.e., Tzotzil). I am currently seeking an approximation of how many translators there are in the United States that are equipped to handle such situations, and possibly their contact information.

Could you possibly post a note in the SSILA Bulletin asking for help with this situation? Any information regarding the availability of translators for these indigenous languages is greatly appreciated.

--Megan Conyers
Allen Castro Group
(mconyers@troy.edu)

* Language revitalization e-newsletter
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From G.Anna Sanchez (hoanumpoli@hotmail.com) July 12, 2005:

I have started an e-mail newsletter called "Anumpa Achukma/Good News: Language Loss Can Be Reversed." It contains articles based upon what I learned about language revitalization from studying the Maori experience during my 4 month visit there on a Fulbright grant and success stories from groups who are working on language revitalization.

If anyone would like to receive this newsletter, they should send their e-mail address, with "subscribe" in the subject slot, to the following address:

holabitubbe@gmail.com

--George Ann Gregory
(hoanumpoli@hotmail.com)

* Hyphens
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From Emmon Bach (ebach@linguist.umass.edu) July 4, 2005:

The point of this note is to initiate a dialogue about the use of hyphens in representing words from First Nations / Native American languages, especially names for bands, nations, places, and so on. An example is the name Nuu-chah-nuulth for the group of languages on Vancouver Island (formerly: Nootka). I believe this is the official form of the name adopted by the nations themselves.

I suspect that many linguists react to such spellings as I do, with a resonance from seeing motels and such with names such as Mi-Nee-Ha-Ha. To a linguist such representations seem to have connotations that suggest that the languages in question, or invoked, are different in kind from "our" real and serious languages. Such ideas recall the situations so well described by Bloomfield in his paper on "secondary and tertiary" responses to language. So I will be strongly tempted to write the name Nuuchahnulth, against the official norm.

A similar problem comes up in designing or advising on practical orthographies. Many native speakers of languages with long words want to write words as sequences of stems, roots, and affixes. The trouble here is that often there are several allomorphs of the affixes and hosts, so that you have to know the entire word-grammar to be able to know how to pronounce a sequence of morphemes making up a word. (The same holds often for clitics, which may have several shapes.)

It would be nice to have the discussion of these questions carried out not just among professional linguists.

--Emmon Bach
London, UK
(bach@linguist.umass.edu)

* Reprint of Bright's Karok available
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From Andre Cramblit (andrekar@ncidc.org) July 5, 2005:

Reprints of William Bright's "The Karok Language" (a grammar with texts and a dictionary) are available for \$19.95. Go to:

<http://www.legalbooksdistributing.com/lbsearch/index.html>

frameworks, methodologies, terminologies, and data as a prerequisite for further advancing of the topic. To this end, both a general typological and a historical perspective as a means to inform this discourse will be welcomed.

For further information, contact Andrei Filtchenko (andreif@rice.edu) or visit one of the Conference websites:

<http://www.lenca3.siblang.org>
<http://www.ling.helsinki.fi/uhlcs/LENCA/LENCA-3/lenca-3.html> (u.c.)

Deadline for submissions: 15 December 2005.

* Language and Indigenous Knowledge, ICA-52 (Seville, July 17-21, 2006)

From Rosaleen Howard (rosyl@liverpool.ac.uk) 15 Jul 2005:

We are organizing a symposium on "Language and Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Amerindian Societies" for the 52nd International Congress of Americanists that will be held in Seville, 17 to 21 July 2006.

This is an interdisciplinary symposium which seeks to encourage synergies between ethnolinguistic and anthropological perspectives on the topic of indigenous knowledge in Amerindian societies. This is a growing area of research, given the need for development practice in Latin America to engage more fully with, and operate in light of, indigenous knowledge systems. Proposed topics include:

- How are concepts of 'knowledge', and 'know-how' construed and constituted in Amerindian societies? What is the role of learning and how does learning evolve as a cultural process?
- How is the link between language and indigenous knowledge constructed in the discourses and practices of Amerindian peoples? - in such fields as technology, cosmology, medicine, botany, etc.
- What are the epistemological principles underlying the cultural construction of knowledge? And what are the linguistic resources used in articulating these principles - epistemic modality or evidential systems, for example?
- To what extent are the survival of language and the survival of indigenous knowledge systems inherently bound up together? Does the loss of indigenous languages inevitably entail the loss of the knowledge they serve to express?
- How do language planning actions such as bilingual education programmes and the creation of writing systems for previously oral languages impact on the survival and/or transformation of indigenous knowledge systems?
- What are the respective roles of orality, the book, and writing in indigenous societies, with respect to the constitution and transmission of knowledge?
- What other media for the construction and communication of knowledge

should be taken into account (mathematics, music, weaving, and others)?

If you are interested in participating in this Symposium, please send us an abstract of 150 words before September 30, 2005.

--Professor Rosaleen Howard
School of Modern Languages
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NE1 7RU England
(rosyl@liv.ac.uk)

--Prof. Marie-Noelle Chamoux
Centre d'Etudes des Langues Indigènes d'Amérique (CELIA)
7, rue Guy Môquet
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225.3 E-Mail Address Updates

The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA e-mail 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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