

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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236.1 Correspondence

* Uto-Aztecan word-lists?

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From Lyle Campbell ([lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu](mailto:lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu)) 3 April 2006:

I'm writing to ask readers of the SSILA Bulletin whether they have any Swadesh word-lists (either 100-word or 200-word lists) filled out in any Uto-Aztecan language, and, if so, if they would be willing to send it/them to us? They are for a project by a Ph.D. student, Robert Ross, at the

University of Auckland, New Zealand, consulting with me. The lists will be used to test some claims about language change and to help in the application of computer models to these notions, and hopefully to provide perspective on some previous classifications of Uto-Aztecan.

For example, Miller's (1984) paper on the classification of the Uto-Aztecan languages based on lexical evidence was based on a 100-word 32-language Uto-Aztecan cognate set. However, the actual words do not appear in the paper. If we could get access to the actual cognate list (or an updated cognate list) it would be ideal for our purposes.

Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. It would be good if you can send the lists to both Robert and to me. His address is:

[robross45@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robross45@yahoo.com.au)

Also, if you know of any published Swadesh lists for any Uto-Aztecan languages that we may have missed, please let us know the references.

--Lyle Campbell  
Dept. of Linguistics, University of Utah  
([lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu](mailto:lyle.campbell@linguistics.utah.edu))

\* Seeking a home for a bound set of "Language"

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From Terry Thompson ([lcthomp@earthlink.net](mailto:lcthomp@earthlink.net)) 3 April 2006:

Larry and I are moving permanently to a retirement community in Portland, Oregon, and have had to dispose of most of our library. Most of it has been or is being sold by Louis Collins in Seattle, but we also have a run of the journal "Language" beginning in 1928, mostly bound. Since it is now available on the web, most libraries are getting rid of their copies. Is there anyone out there that would like to have bound copies of Language in their library (personal, professional, or collegiate)? We'd like to GIVE them to a booklover.

--Larry and Terry Thompson  
Portland, Oregon  
([lcthomp@earthlink.net](mailto:lcthomp@earthlink.net))

\* Cabarisha?

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From Annie Sommer ([anniedeclutters@bigpond.com](mailto:anniedeclutters@bigpond.com)) 14 March 2006:

Here in Sydney, Australia, we have a hospital called the Castlecrag Private Hospital, previously called Cabarisha Private Hospital. A close friend of mine, who has been hospitalised there, asked me if I could find out for her the origin of the original name "Cabarisha." I said yes, expecting it would require no more than a simple search of the Internet. How wrong one can be!

On the Internet I discovered only the following:

The hospital was founded in 1928 by Dr. Edward William Rivett, after he had studied at the Palmer "School" of Chiropractic, in California, from 1925 to 1927. He named the hospital "Cabarisha" in honor--so the citations say--of a "mythical North American Indian healer" of that name.

I next went to the State Library of New South Wales and searched through many books on North American Indian mythology and Native American healing, but with no luck. The name did not appear anywhere.

Then I decided to approach the search from a different direction. Since Dr. Rivett had apparently spent two years at the Palmer School in California, perhaps he had actually met this healer while he was there. Perhaps he was not "mythical" at all, but "legendary", which is quite a different matter. I contacted Prof. Glenda Wiese, Special Services Librarian at the David Palmer Health Sciences Library of the Palmer College of Chiropractic, now in Iowa, and she very kindly searched the records of the 1920s, and their databases, but to no avail. The name "Cabarisha," in all possible variations of spelling, came up with nothing.

You can imagine how much I would appreciate your help in this, shall I say historic, journey, both to please my sick friend and to satisfy my own curiosity. Information about this healer, his life, reputation and achievements would be a fascinating contribution to the local history of the Sydney area. Dr. Rivett must have had a very good reason give his hospital this name.

I do hope you will be able to spare some time in the search for Cabarisha. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the name appeared in the first index you opened ?

--Annie Sommer  
Sydney, Australia  
([anniedeclutters@bigpond.com](mailto:anniedeclutters@bigpond.com))

\* The bald eagle may be safe but languages are still in danger

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[The following letter from one of the recipients of SSILA's Ken Hale Prize for 2005 was published in the Financial Times (UK) on March 11.]

Sir, It was truly wonderful to read that America's national symbol, the bald eagle, is back in such strength that the US Fish and Wildlife Service is considering its removal from the endangered species list. In a way, the eagle's rescue symbolizes our own redemption.

Nevertheless, there is a crisis today even greater than that recently averted danger by the bald eagle--that of our indigenous Native American languages, which are on the leading edge of a global wave of linguistic extinctions with 90 per cent of remaining languages expected to disappear within less than 100 years.

In the same ways that a healthy planet requires biological diversity, a healthy cultural world requires linguistic diversity. Yet, language is also an elaborate phenomenon tied to real people and cultures. Language loss threatens a fundamental human right--that of expression of the life and life ways of a people.

Each language relates ideas that can be expressed in that language and no other. Thus, when an indigenous community is no longer allowed to pray, sing, or tell stories in its language, it is denied a fundamental human right. Unfortunately, linguistic rights have been seriously abused for hundreds of years by banning specific languages and indirectly by assaulting language-support structures such as land, economies and religions.

Tragically, the denial of linguistic rights continues in the US in the form of regulatory obstruction, fiscal neglect and racism. Even today, Native American schools are often forced to choose between basic funding and Native American language preservation. It is the modern continuation of the colonialism and abuse that originally denied the land to this country's original inhabitants.

Yet deliverance is not out of reach on this issue either. Consider for a moment that in the early 1960s, few Americans knew or cared that the bald eagle was on the verge of extinction in the lower 48 states. It took a few non-profit organizations and a massive direct mail campaign to inform the public about the plight. Fortunately, the national response was immediate and effective.

Within several years, new regulations like the Endangered Species Act were in place and financial resources were directed towards solving the problem. The eagles were on the road to recovery. But our success was long in coming. We cannot, however, be satisfied with this single victory. Languages today are the next frontier in setting the country into moral and environmental symmetry. We cannot simply save the eagle while neglecting our other important national symbols.

--Wilhelm K. Meya
Executive Director, Lakota Language Consortium
The Language Conservancy
Bloomington, IN 47408
(meya@lakhota.org)

* Seeking a speaker of Popti for courtroom interpreting
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From Lois Feuerle ([Lois.M.FEUERLE@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Lois.M.FEUERLE@ojd.state.or.us)) 9 April 2006:

It has been a while since I was in touch with you and your organization seeking assistance in locating interpreters of various indigenous language. A lot of interesting things have been happening here in Oregon with respect to Mesoamerican languages since then, and I will send you a brief overview soon about how we have been addressing this issue.

For the moment, however, the pressing matter is that the Oregon Judicial Department is looking for someone to interpret Popti, an indigenous language spoken in Guatemala and Chiapas (either Popti to Spanish or Popti to English). We have a matter involving Popti-speaking Guatemalan refugees that may go to trial and we want to be prepared for that eventuality.

If anyone knows of any bilingual Popti speakers, please contact me at the e-mail address below. Any leads, recommendation or suggestions that you may have would also be most welcome.

--Lois Feuerle  
Oregon Judicial Department  
([Lois.M.Feuerle@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Lois.M.Feuerle@ojd.state.or.us))

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236.2 Dixon Accepts Bloomfield Award  
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From Alexandra Aikhenvald ([A.Aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:A.Aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au)) 29 March 2006:

[The Linguistic Society of America's 2006 Leonard Bloomfield Award was presented to R. M. W. Dixon in Albuquerque last January. Dixon made the following remarks on accepting the Award.]

I am humbly grateful to the LSA for choosing my grammar "The Jarawara Language of Southern Amazonia" for the 2006 Leonard Bloomfield award. I like to think of this as a mark of recognition for all writers of comprehensive grammars of previously undescribed languages, and for the publishers who have the vision to put them out.

The first Bloomfield award went to Keren Rice's "A Grammar of Slave", published in the Mouton Grammar Library. The linguistic world owes a debt of gratitude to Mouton de Gruyter for this fine series. And to Cambridge University Press for their high-quality series, Cambridge Grammatical Descriptions, which has featured three grammars of the highest quality -- Kham by David Watters, Tariana by Alexandra Aikhenvald, and Semelai by Nicole Kruspe. Sadly, Cambridge have decided not to persevere with this series; but they are soon to re-issue Aikhenvald's "A Grammar of Tariana" in a cheaper paperback format.

We are fortunate that Oxford University Press have now entered the arena. They did, of course require a subsidy to publish my Jarawara grammar (this was generously provided by the Publications Fund of La Trobe University). The skill that linguistics publisher John Davey and his colleagues at OUP devoted to the project has led to a volume that is a real pleasure to hold and to use.

A word addressed to junior colleagues who think that it will improve their work to immerse it in the latest electronic technology. Don't. Because it won't. I worked on the Jarawara grammar as I did on previous grammars of Dyirbal, of Yidi◊, of Boumaa Fijian (and of English).

I used pencil, pen and spiral-bound notebooks, plus a couple of good-quality tape recorders. No video camera (to have employed one would have compromised my role in the community). No lap-top. No Shoebox or anything of that nature. And also no grammatical elicitation from the lingua franca.

Work centred on the recording and analysis of texts, and on studying language use in an immersion fieldwork situation. Every ounce of my time and energy and brain-power went into writing down, and copying out, and learning, and analysing the language, within the long-established framework of basic linguistic theory (in terms of which almost all grammars have been written).

I thank SIL linguist Alan Vogel for sharing with me field site, data and insights. The most heartfelt thanks of all go to those members of the 150-strong Jarawara community who taught me their wonderful language -- chief amongst them Okomobi, Mito, Soki and Kamo.

[R. M. W. Dixon can be reached by snail-mail at: Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe University, Victoria 3086, AUSTRALIA; by phone (61-3-9479 6401); or by fax (61-3-9467-3053). He does not use e-mail.]

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### 236.3 Upcoming Meetings

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\* Joshua A. Fishman 80th Birthday Symposium (Philadelphia, Sept. 10)  
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From Nancy Hornberger (nancyh@gse.upenn.edu) 20 March, 2006

Joshua A. Fishman's eightieth birthday will be celebrated at the University of Pennsylvania on Sunday, September 10, 2006 with a one-day symposium honoring his pioneering contributions to the study of language and society. We are also assembling an album of greetings and short narratives honoring Fishman, to which all are invited to contribute.

The symposium, to be held from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm, will feature a keynote address by Nkonko Kamwangamalu of Howard University, a panel of three up and coming young scholars continuing the tradition of Joshua Fishman's scholarship, and a cross-generational panel of three scholars who draw inspiration from his work. In addition, two volumes will be presented in honor of Professor Fishman. The full program is:

Check-in 9:30-10:00 am.

I. Greetings (10:00-11:00 am):

(Susan Fuhrman, Courtney Cazden, Dell Hymes, William Labov, and Samuel Norich).

II. Keynote Address (11:00 am-12:00 noon):

Nkonko Kamwangamalu, "Language Policy and Practice in Post-apartheid South Africa: Challenges and Opportunities."

Lunch (12:00-1:30 pm).

III. Panel (1:30-2:30 pm):

The Sociology of Language: A New Generation of Scholarship (Francis M. Hult, Naomi Praver Kadar, Shuhan Wang).

Break (2:30-3:00 pm).

IV. Panel (3:00-4:00 pm):

Language Use, Language Planning, and Identity: Intergenerational Perspectives (Kendall King, John Baugh, Shirley Brice Heath).

V. Panel (4:00-4:30 pm):

Presentation of two volumes honoring Joshua A. Fishman. Vol 1: "Language Loyalty, Language Planning, and Language Revitalization: Recent Writings and Reflections from Joshua A. Fishman" (Nancy H. Hornberger & Martin Peltz); vol 2: "Language Loyalty, Continuity, and Change: Joshua A. Fishman's Contributions to International Sociolinguistics" (Ofelia Garcia, Rakhmiel Peltz, Harold Schiffman).

VI. Closing Remarks by Joshua A. Fishman (4:30-5:00).

The symposium is strictly limited to 200 attendees. The registration fee is \$30. Payment can be made with a check drawn on a US bank, or an international money order, made payable to "The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania." To register send your name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address along with payment to:

Fishman Celebration
c/o Prof. Nancy H. Hornberger
3700 Walnut Street, 3d Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6216

For more information about the symposium, including how to submit greetings and narratives, visit

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/plc/clpp/fishman80/>

(The JOSHUA A. FISHMAN 80TH BIRTHDAY SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

includes: Nancy H. Hornberger (Graduate School of Education, U of Pennsylvania); Rakhmiel Peltz (Judaic Studies, Drexel U); Harold F. Schiffman (Department of South Asia Studies, U of Pennsylvania); Ofelia Garcia (Teachers College, Columbia U); and Martin Peltz (Dept of English,

Chair, Mahendra Verma (mkv1@york.ac.uk), or FEL Chair, Nicholas Ostler (nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk).

Abstracts should be submitted by e-mail (by 18 April 2006) as an attachment in Word, or simply as an e-mail, to <mkv1@york.ac.uk> with copies to <FEL@chibcha.demon.co.uk> and <mallikarjun@ciil.stpmv.soft.net>.

Please

fill in the subject domain as follows:

FEL_Abstract

The e-mail should also contain, in the following format:

NAME: Names of the author(s)
AFFILIATION(S): Institution(s) where the author(s) currently work
TITLE: Title of the paper
E-MAIL: E-mail address of the first author, if any
ADDRESS: Postal address of the first author
TEL: Telephone number of the first author, if any
FAX: Fax number of the first author, if any

The name of the first author will be used in all correspondence.

The Conference announcement will also be placed on the net by CIIL at <http://www.ciil.org> with facilities for submission, and a step-by-step method of submission that will automatically send copies of the abstract as above. Dr. B. Mallikarjun of CIIL, Mysore (Tel: +91-821-2345007) will be the local point of contact for participants.

Paper abstracts (3 copies) may be sent (to arrive by 18 April 2006) to:

Dr Mahendra Verma
Dept of Language and Linguistic Science
University of York
York YO10 5DD
United Kingdom

or may be faxed to: +44 1904 432673.

If submitting an abstract by mail, please also send an e-mail to Mahendra Verma (mkv1@york.ac.uk) informing him of the paper submission, in case the hard copy does not reach its destination in time.

Oral presentations (except for any selected to be keynote addresses) will last twenty minutes each, with a further ten minutes for discussion. Authors will be expected to submit a written paper with the full version

of the lecture (up to 8 pages A4), for publication in the proceedings, well in advance of the conference. Further details on the format of text will be specified to the authors. Authors (and other attendees) from outside India will also be required to inform the organizers in advance of the following details: Passport Number, Citizenship, Date and Place of Issue, for all who wish to be present during the conference.

Authors will be informed of the committee's decision by 8 May 2006. The full paper needs to be sent by 31 August 2006.

* Digital technology session for SSILA meeting (Anaheim, January 2007)
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From Mia Kalish ([Mia@LearningForPeople.us](mailto:Mia@LearningForPeople.us)) 28 March 2006:

I am helping to organize a Global Revitalization Technology "poster" session for next January's SSILA/LSA meeting in Anaheim, California. The session will be composed entirely of digital media presentations and will differ from the usual format insofar as the creators will not be required to attend the conference, as they usually are when presenting a paper. We believe this will allow more people from around the globe to take part.

This session was conceived after the 2006 meeting in Albuquerque, where there were a number of good presentations on revitalization. Many participants on Phil Cash Cash and Susan Penfield's Indigenous Languages and Technology (ILAT) discussion list have been talking about how we need more opportunities to see how others are incorporating digital technology into language revitalization work.

This is how we see the session working:

- (1) People working in revitalization from around the world submit their presentations, examples, and demonstrations, either as digital media or over the internet.
- (2) The organizers will re-format the submissions into a carousel-style Flash movie that allows people to select individual presentations to listen to and watch -- similar to the displays in music stores where people can listen to albums.
- (3) We will also project each of the presentations, in rotation, on a large screen, with audio available through head phones.

We are primarily looking for digital movie formats, although Powerpoint with video and voice-over is quite acceptable. Our intention is to

showcase how technology can be used in revitalization, and how we as a community are using it. We encourage presentations in local languages.

Please contact me, Mia Kalish ([Mia@LearningForPeople.us](mailto:Mia@LearningForPeople.us)), if you have questions about or suggestions for this proposed session. We plan an abstract submission deadline of August 15th, with a media submission deadline of November 20.

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#### 236.4 E-Mail Address Updates

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

Bradley, Matthew Timothy ..... [matbradl@indiana.edu](mailto:matbradl@indiana.edu)  
Buchholtzer, Guy ..... [gbuch@sfu.ca](mailto:gbuch@sfu.ca)  
Buckley, Eugene ..... [gene@ling.upenn.edu](mailto:gene@ling.upenn.edu)  
Cabral, Ana Suelly A. C. .... [asacc@unb.br](mailto:asacc@unb.br)  
Canadien, Albert ..... [albert\\_canadien@gov.nt.ca](mailto:albert_canadien@gov.nt.ca)  
Doty, Christopher ..... [suomichris@gmail.com](mailto:suomichris@gmail.com)  
Glick, Irving ..... [iglick@gwu.edu](mailto:iglick@gwu.edu)  
Goodwin, Ralph Charles ..... [lifonearth@shaw.ca](mailto:lifonearth@shaw.ca)  
Kahrel, Peter ..... [kahrel@kahrel.plus.com](mailto:kahrel@kahrel.plus.com)  
Kendall, Daythal ..... [daythal@earthlink.net](mailto:daythal@earthlink.net)  
Olamina, Jelani ..... [jkboend@yahoo.com](mailto:jkboend@yahoo.com)  
Pawley, Andrew ..... [andrew.pawley@anu.edu.au](mailto:andrew.pawley@anu.edu.au)  
Singer, Kenneth W. .... [kennethwsinger@comcast.net](mailto:kennethwsinger@comcast.net)  
Watts, Patricia ..... [pnwatts@telus.net](mailto:pnwatts@telus.net)

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

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THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

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SSILA also publishes a quarterly hard-copy Newsletter that contains book reviews, notices of journal articles and recent dissertations, and other news and commentary. The Newsletter and other publications of the Society are distributed only to members or to institutional subscribers.

SSILA welcomes applications for membership from anyone interested in the scholarly study of the languages of the native peoples of North, Central, and South America. Dues for 2006 are \$16 (US) or \$20 (Canadian) and may be paid in advance for 2007 and 2008 at the 2006 rate. Checks or money orders should be made payable to "SSILA" and sent to: SSILA, P.O. Box 555, Arcata, CA 95518. For further information, visit the SSILA website (<http://www.ssila.org>).

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