The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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257.0 SSILA Business
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* July Newsletter available online soon
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The PDF version of the July 2007 SSILA Newletter will be posted soon at
the SSILA website (http://www.ssila.org), joining PDFs for the January
and April numbers. These files are available for downloading without
charge, and all SSILA members--particularly those residing outside the
US and Canada--are urged to take advantage of this mode of distribution.
The regular hard-copy Newsletter will continue to be mailed to all
members in the US and Canada, but due to steeply rising postage rates
and long delays in delivery, a hard-copy will be mailed to addresses
outside the US and Canada only if a specific request is made. (This
does not apply to institutional subscriptions and exchanges). Requests

for mail delivery of the 2007 issues to addresses outside of North
America should be e-mailed to <editor@ssila.org>.

Beginning with the 2008 volume, the default distribution of the Newsletter
to ALL individual members, including those residing in the US and Canada,
will be by PDF at the SSILA website, where access to the page with the
current Newsletter will be password-protected. Hard copies will continue
to be sent on request, but an additional fee will be charged for mailing
to addresses outside of North America.

* Abstracts for annual meeting due September 1
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Members are again reminded that the deadline for receipt of abstracts
for the January 2008 annual meeting of the Society, in Chicago, Illinois,
is Saturday, September 1.

Full details regarding SSILA abstract submission can be found in the
Call for Papers posted at the SSILA website (http://www.ssila.org).

257.1 Correspondence
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* Re: ISO 639-3 change requests
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From Joan Spanne (ISO639-3@sil.org) 27 July 2007:

The review period for the 2006 series of ISO 639-3 Change Requests ended
On June 30. Of the 120 requests considered, seven are still pending,
Either because they affect code elements included in both ISO 639-2 and
639-3 or because additional information has come to light which requires
further analysis. Of the decisions finalized:

11 code elements are retired as having been duplicates of another language
(2), determined to be nonexistent (2), or merged into another code as
being mutually intelligible varieties of the same language (7);

4 code elements have undergone a broadening in their denotation due to
merges with other language varieties;

8 code elements have been split into two or more distinct languages,
accounting for the creation of 24 new code elements (net gain of 16
individual languages);

49 entirely new language code elements have been created for languages
not previously accounted for in the standard. Of these, 11 are ancient
languages;

47 code elements have undergone name changes and/or additions without any
change in denotation.

A summary report of changes and outcomes may be viewed and downloaded as
a PDF document. Please see http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/default.asp for
more information and a link to the summary report.

The 2007 series of change requests is now visible via the Change Request Index, http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/chg_requests.asp, which permits sorting in various ways and has links to specific documentation for each change being proposed. Proposals for 2007 will be accepted until September 1, 2007, and will be formally under review from September 15 - December 15. Outcomes will be announced for these proposals in January 2008. Proposals received after September 1 will be a part of the 2008 series of Change Requests, and will await formal review from September 15 - December 15, 2008.

--Joan Spanne, ISO 639-3/RA
SIL International
7500 W Camp Wisdom Rd
Dallas, TX 75236
(639-3@sil.org)

* Elusive language of the Chane
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From Bret Gustafson (bdgustaf@artsci.wustl.edu) 27 July 2007:

I am interested in finding word-lists or any kind of data from the Arawakan language known as "Chane," purportedly spoken by a people of the same name in southeastern Bolivia and northern Argentina who were displaced (or absorbed) by the later arrival of the Guarani. Though a problematic theory, the ethnic label "Chiriguano" (for the Bolivian Guarani) is said by some to derive from the combination of Chane and Guarani. Some Guarani (of the Bolivian Isoso region) consider themselves to be Guaranized Chane. A handful of elders are often said to speak some Chane (ritual songs), though this, if true, is closely guarded and has not been recorded by non-Guarani. I have had no luck finding any Chane linguistic data, despite numerous ethnohistorical references to the group by Nordenskiold, Metraux, Saignes, et al. Was this language (and its speakers) real? Perhaps I am missing an obvious source. Any tips, leads, or suggestions will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

-- Bret Gustafson
Department of Anthropology
Washington University in St. Louis
(gustafson@wustl.edu)

* Mayan interpreters needed
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From Camille Herland (cherland@Vera.org) 3 August 2007:

I am writing to you from the Vera Institute of Justice's Center on Immigration and Justice. Project sites for Vera's Legal Orientation Program, which gives "know your rights" presentations to people detained on immigration charges, have been reporting that they are coming across detainees, particularly unaccompanied children, who only speak their native indigenous languages. Most of these children are from Guatemala. The sites currently have no resources to accommodate indigenous languages, and I have thus been asked to identify any potential language resources for translation or interpretation of Central American indigenous languages, with a particular focus on languages spoken in Guatemala

(K'iche, Qanjobal, Chuj, Mam, Kakchiquel, Ixil). I was told that you
have broad membership among linguists and language activists and that
you regularly post announcements in your publications. I was thus
wondering if it would be possible for you to put out a call for
interpretation resources in Mayan languages in your next Bulletin.
Specifically we are looking for translation and interpretation resources,
be they organizations, individuals, texts, et cetera. At the end of my
research, I will be compiling a list of all of the resources I find to
distribute to these centers, who would then contact individual resources
as needed. If you were able to post a call for information that would
be distributed amongst your membership it would be a tremendous help.

                                                --Camille Herland?
                                               (cherland@vera.org)

* Need a translation, please!
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From Kim Therrien (kim.therrien@sbcglobal.net) 6 August 2007:

I need your help. I am not familiar with the native languages but have
a need to know what something means and what nation and tribe it is from.
Some have told me it is Sioux while others have told me it is Cherokee.
I don't know what it is. Since I don't know proper spelling I will spell
and emphasize in a phonetic manner as much as I can: "Wah SHEESH na HEY".

I am a wee bit embarrassed to say why, but it is very important to me
that I know. Any help you could give me would be greatly appreciated.

                                                  --Kim Therrien
                                        (kim.therrien@sbcglobal.net)

257.2 Commentary: "Web 2.0" (Peter Austin)

[Peter Austin of SOAS posted the following recently on "Transient
Languages & Cultures", the blog maintained by Jane Simpson and her
colleagues in PARADISEC (Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital
Sources in Endangered Cultures) at the University of Sydney
(http://blogs.usyd.edu.au/elac/). We reprint it here with Peter's
permission, and he has taken the opportunity to add a couple of
sentences. --VG.]

Several contributors to this blog, including yours truly, and no doubt
a number of our readers too, have recently been bitten by the Facebook
(http://www.facebook.com) bug. Facebook bills itself as "a social
utility that connects you with the people around you", and it's kind
of fun too. In addition to being able to track what your friends are
up to, it is also possible to join groups of like-minded individuals
to share ideas, and socialize (reminds me of those sessions in the bar
at the end of a hard day's work at a linguistics conference). Along
with the predictable groups centered around Noam Chomsky, there is
also "You're a Linguist? How many languages do you speak?", "Typolo-
gists United", and my particular favorite, "Thomas Payne is My Hero",

whose members are:

> dedicated to the source of all linguistics knowledge, Thomas
> Payne. His manuals are so good that they can apply to any
> discipline at any time. Physics problems? Open the textbook
> and realize that you should really be a linguistics major.
> Life? Look up grammatical relations and discover meaning in
> existence. Linguistics? You better just read the whole thing.
> Oh Thomas Payne, what would we do without you?

Facebook is part of what has been termed "Web 2.0" by Tim O'Reilly
(http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/oreilly/tim/news/2005/09/30/what-is-web-20.html).
The basic idea is that Web 2.0 uses the internet to connect people
rather than connecting documents, as in the original conception of the
web by Tim Berners-Lee (http://www.w3.org/People/Berners-Lee/).
Since a number of us are now realizing that documenting and describing
minority and endangered languages is crucially about people and
establishing and maintaining human relationships, rather than data,
standards and preservation, Web 2.0 opens up a range of possibilities
for new ways of collaborating that go beyond what we have been able
to do so far. This includes the following, among others:

1. Social (sharing) websites like Facebook, YouTube and Flickr.

2. Blogs, like this one.

3. Wikis, of which Wikipedia in its various versions and languages is
just one example. The recently launched Glottopedia
(http://www.glottopedia.org), which aims to become a "free encyclopedia
for linguistics", is a moderated wiki and contributors must sign-up
and use their own names when creating or editing content.

4. Web-based collaborative applications that are generally free and
have much if not most of the functionality of desktop applications
like word-processors, spreadsheets, calendars and slide shows.

At SOAS, we have done some experimentation with wikis (mainly for
our ELDP-grantee training courses), and with several of the "web-based
apps" and find them very useful collaborative tools. We have a single
shared calendar for the 12 ELAP and ELAR staff using the free My
Calendars (http://my.calendars.net) tool, that enables us to see each
other's comings and goings and commitments, and to plan meetings
accordingly. We also looked at Google Calendars
(http://www.google.com/calendar) and 30 Boxes (http://www.30boxes.com),
but they weren't as easy to use and didn't have the facility of color
coding each staff member, which we find to be especially helpful. For
jointly writing documents Google Docs and Spreadsheets
(http://www.google.com/docs) is excellent: it is simple and clean with
the main functionalities of a word-processor. It truly enables
collaborative team-based writing and sure beats e-mailing Word documents
with layers of track-changes and comments that can easily become a
versioning nightmare when two or three authors are involved. It is
easy to save copies of documents to one's own computer. Similar
facilities are offered by Zoho (http://www.zoho.com) (which also offers
slideshow, meetings management, database and other office tools), and
ThinkFree (http://www.thinkfree.com), though I prefer the Google Docs
interface for collaborative writing. Although sharing of individual
documents in these environments can be specified to particular users
and appears to be secure, I personally have reservations about putting

sensitive materials on other people's servers, and would certainly
keep a back-up copy of valuable documents on my desktop computer.
Another web-based application that I have found useful is FolderShare
(http://www.foldershare.com) which allows secure virtual sharing of hard
disks between machines that are accessible on the internet; I find this
is especially useful for file transfers between my Macintosh and Windows
machines.

This is about as far as we have gone to date at SOAS with our social
linguistic participation in Web 2.0. One of our MA students, Paul
Butcher, is currently writing his dissertation on application of Web 2.0
concepts to language documentation and support and I look forward to
reading what he has to say when it is finished in September. Perhaps
he can be persuaded to contribute to this blog when he's done.

257.3 Upcoming Meetings
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* Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory (London, December 7-8)
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A conference on "Language Documentation and Linguistic Theory: 75 years
of Linguistics at SOAS, 5 years of the Endangered Languages Project"
will be held on December 7-8, 2007, at the School of Oriental and African
Studies, University of London.

In 2007 the Department of Linguistics at SOAS celebrates its 75th
anniversary. Founded in 1932 as the first department of general
linguistics in Britain, the research carried out by linguistics within
the department has made a significant and lasting impact on the fields
of language documentation and description and linguistic theory.

This conference commemorates both the 75 year tradition of linguistics
within the School and the 5th anniversary of the Hans Rausing Endangered
Languages Project, comprising the Endangered Languages Academic Programme
(ELAP), the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR), and the Endangered
Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP).

The conference aims to bring together researchers working on linguistic
theory and language documentation and description, with a particular focus
on innovative work on underdescribed or endangered languages, especially
those of Asia and Africa. The goal is to provide a forum to discuss the
ways that linguists and others, especially community members, can respond
to the current challenges to linguistic diversity and build on experiences
of the past.

For more information, please see:

        http://www.hrelp.org/events/conference2007/index.html

* InField (UC Santa Barbara, July 23-August 1 2008)
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From Rebekka Siemens (b3kaboo@yahoo.com) 14 August 2007:

The Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Santa
Barbara, is pleased to announce that plans are under way to hold the
first "Institute on Field Linguistics and Language Documentation"
(InField) on the UCSB campus during the summer of 2008.

InField will provide field linguists, graduate students, and language
activists with state-of-the-art training in techniques and issues in
language documentation, language maintenance, and language revitalization.

Workshops

The first portion of the institute (June 23-July 3, 2008) will offer
workshops of differing lengths on a variety of topics such as technology,
archiving, life in the field, ethics, orthographies, and lexicography.
A special curriculum designed specifically for native speakers interested
in documenting their own languages will include workshops on basic
linguistics, materials development, how to provide technical support
to a community, and successful models of language maintenance and
revitalization.

Field training

The field training portion of the institute (July 7-August 1) will be
intensive, based on a traditional graduate course in field methods, but
will specifically incorporate the techniques and technologies of the
workshops into the course. We anticipate running two or three courses
on different languages simultaneously.

Workshop proposals

The organizing committee solicits applications for workshops in language
documentation, language maintenance, and/or language revitalization.
We particularly seek proposals from current practitioners in this area
who would like to teach a workshop of two to eight hours in length to
an audience of practicing linguists, graduate students in linguistics,
and/or language activists with an interest in documenting, maintaining,
or revitalizing a language.

The proposal should include a statement of the topic of the proposed
workshop, the rationale for including it as part of InField, the proposed
length of the workshop, and a brief description of the workshop content
and how it would be taught. Please keep proposals to a maximum of two-
pages in length. Please include also a statement of qualifications of
the instructor.

Workshop instructors will receive reimbursement for travel, room and
board, and a modest honorarium. Proposals should be submitted to
infield@linguistics.ucsb.edu no later than September 15.

For a full description of InField, including workshops currently being
planned, visit the website at:

        http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/faculty/infield

257.4 Grants and Fellowships
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* RCLT Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (South America)
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Immediate applications are invited for two 3-year Postdoctoral Research
Fellowships in the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe
University, Victoria, Australia. They are to commence on December 1,
2007, or soon thereafter.

NOTE: The deadline for receipt of applications is the Close of Business,
Friday, August 24, 2007.

Applicants should have been awarded their doctorate within the last
five years. They should have experience of linguistic fieldwork and
will, ideally, have already completed a grammatical description of some
previously undescribed language (not their native language) in terms of
basic linguistic theory. 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, but applicants must hold a doctoral degree or have
equivalent qualifications at the date of appointment. A Fellowship will
not normally be awarded to an applicant who already holds an appointment
within La Trobe University.

The successful applicant will work as part of a team with Professor
Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Professor R.M.W. Dixon, and other members of
the Research Centre. Ideally, we are looking for one Postdoctoral
Research Fellow who will work on a language from South America and one
who will work on a language from New Guinea. However applicants with
primary interest in another area will be considered. Each appointee
will undertake extensive fieldwork and will either (i) produce a
comprehensive description of some previously undescribed language; or
(ii) pursue an in-depth study of a language contact situation. The
second option will only be available to someone who already has good
knowledge of one or more of the languages involved in a suitable contact
situation (and has undertaken significant analysis on them). The choice
of project will be made after discussion between the successful applicant
and Professors Aikhenvald and Dixon.

Each 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.

Before making a formal application, potential applicants are invited to
communicate with Professor Aikhenvald (a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au).
Applicants are also invited to visit our website:

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

The remuneration package for the fellowship is $67,578 to $72,540 per
annum, which includes 17% employer superannuation.

257.5 Position Open
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* Assistant Professor, Indigenous Languages, UC-San Diego
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From Catherine Alioto (calioto@ling.ucsd.edu) 7 August 2007:

The Department of Linguistics at the University of California, San Diego
(http://ling.ucsd.edu) invites applications for a tenure-track position
in the area of indigenous languages, with preference for Native American
languages. This position is part of a 3-year initiative to hire scholars
doing work in the area of Indigenous and Native American Studies at UCSD.
Applicants should have a strong research program on indigenous languages,
including fieldwork and establishing relationships within indigenous
communities. Any subfield will be considered; candidates should contri-
bute to the department's focus on empirically-driven experimental and
theoretical research. A Ph.D. or Ph.D. candidacy is required and
candidates should demonstrate research productivity, undergraduate and
graduate teaching ability, and extramural funding potential. Duties
include research, teaching, and departmental/university service. Please
visit the following online application link for further application
information and requirements:

                   http://ling.ucsd.edu/who/jobs.html

For fullest consideration, all application materials, including letters,
should be received no later than December 1, 2007. Salaries are in
strict accordance with UC pay scales. Non-citizens should state their
immigration status. UCSD is an equal opportunity/affirmative action
employer committed to excellence through diversity. Applicants are
invited to preview campus diversity resources and programs at the campus
website for Diversity http://diversity.ucsd.edu. Applicants are also
invited to include in their cover letters a personal statement summarizing
their contributions to diversity.

                                              --Catherine Alioto
                                       Academic Affairs Coordinator
                                       Department of Linguistics, UCSD
                                              La Jolla, CA 92093-0108
                                               (calioto@ling.ucsd.edu)

257.6 E-Mail Address Updates

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

Booker, Karen .... kbooker@sunflower.com
Brody, Michal .... michalbrody@gmail.com
Clawson, Anna .... seadeer@gmail.com
Hymes, Dell & Virginia ... vhymes@gmail.com
Marean, Lindsay .... lmarean@bensay.org
Philips, Lisa .... lphilips@ualberta.ca
Radetzky, Paula .... paula.radetzky@gmail.com
Slate, Clay .... clayslate@mexicanhomeart.com
Speranza, Rose .... fnrs@uaf.edu
Stonham, John .... stonham@pknu.ac.kr
Whalen, Douglas .... dwhalen@nsf.gov

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

The SSILA Bulletin is distributed electronically to all members of SSILA.
Non-members may subscribe free of charge by sending their e-mail address
to the editor (golla@ssila.org).

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 2007 are $16 (US) or $20 (Canadian) and may
be paid in advance at the 2007 rate. (The basic rate will rise to $20 in
2008.) 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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