

**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 61: February 20, 1998

## 6.1 CORRESPONDENCE

### Source of phrase?

❖ From (barrbody@frontiernet.net) 1 Feb 1998:

My name is Andy Barr -- long time veterinarian, short time net user. I am trying to find out which Native American tribe the following phrase is from, and what its translation is, for a project for my Boy Scout Troop in north central Wisconsin. Working with some of our Menomonee scouts has given us no leads yet.

The phrase is YAHSWATA'THLEKE?,\_all one word, with the E and ? underlined.

The phrase was on a letter talking about a winter campout (a "Klondike") where we practice winter camping skills, first aid, and fire-making. We drag a big dog sled from place to place and practice these skills. The main local tribes in this part of Wisconsin are Menominee and Oneida.

~Andy Barr  
(barrbody@frontiernet.net)

### Help needed with Abenaki

❖ From Mariella Squire (msquire@keene.edu) 2 Feb 1998:

Help! I am working in the rapidly fading Western Abenaki language (maybe 10 native speakers left, and a handful of second language speakers with varying degrees of fluency--like me). I am trying to write a grammar, conversational guide, lessons and "self-teaching" materials for my people, so we can salvage what we can of our heritage language. We are having some limited success, but I am trained as an anthropologist, not as a linguist. Western Abenaki is a northeastern Algonquian language originally spoken from more-or-less the Adirondacks in NY, east to western Maine and north of the Berkshire Hills in Massachusetts to the St. Lawrence. Is anyone out there doing similar >work with related languages? And who else out there speaks, reads, or writes W. Abenaki? I have been told there are some speakers in Connecticut, Florida, California, and Washington. The Abenakis dispersed out of northern New England and southern Quebec starting in the middle 1800s, so there are communities all over. Assistance is >appreciated, especially from applied linguistics people. Thanks, friends (wliwni nidobak)!

~Mariella Squire  
Sociology & Anthropology, Keene State College  
Keene, NH 03435-2101

## **Numerals**

❖ From Sandy Haugen (shaugen@swbell.net) 4 Feb 1998:

I would like to thank you for posting (Bulletin #60) my inquiry about my great-grandmother's (possibly Native American) numerals. I have already received three replies. The general feeling is that these words are very like the sheep-counting numerals that survived in the highland areas of England, especially Cumbria, and are based on British/Welsh numerals. Since my ancestors names were of English origin, this all fits together. Again, I thank you and I will now continue my research in a entirely different direction.

~Sandy Haugen

## **Tarascan and Ecuador**

❖ From Bernard Comrie (comrie@rcf.usc.edu) 5 Feb 1998:

In SSILA Bulletin #60.2 I asked about possible relations between Tarascan and languages of the Ecuadorian coast. I received the following reply from Willem Adelaar (University of Leiden), which I am posting with his permission:

Tarascan is a suffixing language, like Quechua, and it is both genetically and typologically a total loner among the other Mexican languages. Swadesh assumed that Tarascan was related to Quechua and listed some examples of possible cognates. As a result, the theory of an Andean migration to western Mexico (in early historical times) became popular among Mexican archaeologists. Swadesh's examples turned out to be mostly invalid, which is used as an argument for abandoning the idea of a Tarascan-Andean connection. Recently, Stefan Liedtke came up with some new lexical correspondences that look more promising (one of the best is PURU, the word for "gourd" in both Quechua and Tarascan). Greenberg thinks Tarascan is related to Chibchan. In my opinion, it makes sense to go on looking for possible Andean connections of Tarascan, as long as there is not anything better. Pacific coastal trade and possible coastal migrations is a fascinating topic, which receives hardly any attention. Documentation is extremely scarce. The Ecuadorian coastal languages are gone, but there is some data on Esmeralden~o or Atacames (an isolate, as far as we know) and there are still the Barbacoan languages (Cayapa, Colorado, Cuaiquer and Guambiano). I don't think there is any significant documentation on the language(s) of the Guayaquil area, etc.

~Bernard Comrie  
Dept. of Linguistics  
University of Southern California

## **Address correction**

❖ From: Marie-Lucie Tarpent (marie-lucie.tarpent@msvu.ca) 16 Feb 1998:

Reading the January issue of the SSILA Newsletter I was once more marvelling that it hardly ever has errors, but I noticed one in the conference announcement on p. 19 under EASTERN CANADA: the e-mail address for the organizer is davey@sparc.uccb.ns.ca>, i.e. <sparc> not <sperc>. I will be grateful if you include this correction in future editions of the Newsletter, and also in the next Bulletin.

~Marie-Lucie Tarpent  
Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

## 61.2 UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- **AAAL (Seattle, March 14-17)**

The 1998 meeting of the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) will be held at the Renaissance Madison Hotel, Seattle, WA, on March 14-17. The preliminary program has a number of papers on language revitalization, including several that focus on American Indian communities. These include:

- Session on "Language revitalization: academic and community perspectives" (participants: Leanne Hinton, Charlotte Basham, Pat Rounds, Jon Reyhner, Scott DeLancey, Christine Sims, Rebecca Benjamin, Janne Underriner, Natasha Warner, Colleen Carter, William Wilson, Kauano Kamana).
- "Coping with Complex Language and Subject Matter: Inuit students in northern Quebec" -- Nina Spada, Patsy Lightbown.
- "The Language Thieves: an historical perspective of Native American education and language loss" -- Mary Schmida.
- "Language Revitalization in the Andes: process and prospects" -- Kendall King.
- Shirley Brice Heath will close the conference with a plenary session.

People interested in attending the conference can get further information from the AAAL by e-mail (aaloffice@aal.org) or telephone 612/953-0805.

- **Athapaskan Language Conference (Calgary, June 12-14)**

❖ From Gary Donovan (donovan@acs.ucalgary.ca) 9 Feb 1998:

The 1998 Athapaskan Language Conference will be held at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, June 12-14. Suggested topics include but are not limited to: Language in Athapaskan Communities; Language Materials Preparation; Traditional Stories; Young People in Modern Athapaskan Cultures; as well as the usual papers on linguistic research and analysis. Abstracts of papers can be sent by e-mail to the address of the sender (Gary Donovan) or to <bpotter@acs.ucalgary.ca>; by fax to 403/282-3880; or by mail to Athapaskan Language Conference, c/o Brian Potter, Department of Linguistics, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2N 1N4.

The response from the Athapaskan communities seems strong, so in order to avoid overlapping presentations, we will have some events, papers, and workshops on June 12 to start us off. These will definitely include storytelling, cultural (drums) and education issues. This scheduling is designed to allow linguists to attend education and story sessions by Athapaskan people and vice versa.

~Bruce Starlight, Gary Donovan, & Brian Potter

- **Encuentro Interamericano de Linguística (Hermosillo, Nov. 19-20)**

❖ From Zarina Estrada (zarina@fisica.uson.mx):

La Licenciatura en Linguística de la Universidad de Sonora invita a especialistas nacionales y extranjeros interesados en los diversos aspectos del lenguaje al "V Encuentro Internacional de Linguística en el Noroeste." Este evento tendrá lugar los días 18, 19 y 20 de noviembre de 1998 en las instalaciones del Departamento de Letras y Linguística de la Universidad de Sonora, en la ciudad de Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

En el Encuentro se incluirán mesas sobre temas de linguística descriptiva y teórica, así como sobre las diversas áreas de las interdisciplinas linguísticas y de la linguística aplicada. Se podrán organizar sesiones sobre temas especiales, previo acuerdo con los organizadores del Encuentro dentro del periodo de recepción de resúmenes.

Conferencistas especiales: Joan Bresnan (Stanford), Frederick J. Newmeyer (U de Washington), Margarita Suner (Cornell), y Robert D. Van Valin, Jr. (SUNY-Buffalo).

Los interesados deberán enviar el resumen de su participación antes del 31 de mayo de 1998 a la siguiente dirección: V Encuentro Internacional de Linguística en el Noroeste, Departamento de Letras y Linguística, Universidad de Sonora, Apartado postal 793, C.P. 83000, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

Para cualquier informacion favor de comunicarse con Zarina Estrada Fernandez o Gerardo Lopez Cruz, a los telefonos (62) 59-21-87 y (62) 12-55-29, al fax (62) 12-55-29 o a la cuenta de correo electronico: <5encuen@capomo.uson.mx>.

### 61.3 WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Wayne Leman (wleman@mcn.net) calls our attention to two new sites:

#### **Various Indian Peoples Publishing, Inc.**

<http://members.aol.com/vipublish/sublang.html>

--hosted by a small publisher in Arkansas who specializes in Native American language materials. It has materials on Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Lakhota, and some other languages.

#### **Comanche Language and Cultural Preservation Committee**

<http://www.skylands.net/users/tdeer/clcpc/index.htm>

--a start-up site, "not real fancy yet."

## 61.4 JOURNAL OF AMAZONIAN LANGUAGES

❖ From Dan Everett (dever@verb.linguist.pitt.edu) 16 Feb 1998:

The second issue of Volume 1 of the Journal of Amazonian Languages is now in press and should be mailed out the second week of March. The articles in this issue are:

- Cheryl Jensen, 'The use of coreferential and reflexive markers in Tupi-Guarani languages' (1-49).
- Raquel Guimaraes R. Costa, 'Aspects of ergativity in Marubo (Panoan)' (50-103).
- Keren M. Everett, 'The acoustic correlates of stress in Piraha' (104-162).

Requests for subscriptions may be sent to:

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## 61.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

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