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

January - June 2011　　　　　**NEWSLETTER XXIX: 1-2**

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Karen Sue Rolph (karenrolph at hotmail dot com)
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-- >> -- Correspondence should be directed to the Editor -- <<--

Volume 29, Number 1-2

CONTENTS

SSILA BUSINESS

SSILA Summer Meeting 2011
University of Colorado, Boulder

SSILA President Patricia Shaw, Host
Please plan to attend the **Reception on Saturday, July 30, from 5:30 to 7 pm**
for SSILA and the Workshop on Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment.
Humanities Lobby.

Presentation Schedule
Sunday, July 31, 2011
9:00 am to 4:45pm
Humanities Room 150

Registration will be on site. The web page for SSILA at the LSA Institute:
https://verbs.colorado.edu/LSA2011/workshops/SSILA.html

 9:00 **Emmon Bach** *SOAS / UMass Amherst*   Subordination and Mood in Western Abenaki
 9:30 **Heidi Harley** and **Alex Trueman** *U of Arizona*   Case and Number Dissociation in Hiaki
10:00 **Heidi Harley** and **Alex Trueman** *U of Arizona*   Pronouns and Postpositions in Hiaki

10:30 BREAK

10:45 **Grant Aiton** *University of Alberta*   Postpositions in Tsuut'ina and Their Use in Conjoined Clauses
11:15 **Rodrigo Gutierrez-Bravo** *El Colegio de México/CELL*   Verb Focus in Yucatec Maya

11:45 LUNCH BREAK

 1:30 **Richard Sandoval** *University of Colorado Boulder*   Arapaho Demonstratives in Interaction:
       Grammatical Pointing
 2:00 **James Andrew Cowell** *University of Colorado Boulder*   Collaborative Anecdotes: An Arapaho
       Conversational Speech Genre
 2:30 **Donna Gerdts** *Simon Fraser University*   The expected and unexpected: Ponderative particles in
       Halkomelem

 3:00 BREAK

 3:15 **Patricia Shaw** *University of British Columbia*   What was Nootkan Jargon?
 3:45 **Montgomery Hill** *Tuscarora Indian Nation*   Simplifying not destroying: a case study of digitization of
       the written works of Tuscarora
 4:15 **Brian Stubbs** *Utah State University*   Cluster Clutter in Proto-Uto-Aztecan

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear SSILA Members,

The World Atlas of Language Structures Online (M. Haspelmath, M. S. Dryer, D. Gil, and B. Comrie, eds.; Max Planck Digital Library, Munich, 2008 [revised online version posted April, 2011]; google: WALS) is generally and deservedly admired as a marvelous resource for linguists and has become more widely known thanks to a recent article by Quentin D. Atkinson that made a big splash in the print and online media (Phonemic Diversity Supports a Serial Founder Effect Model of Language Expansion from Africa, *Science* 332:346-349, 2011). Linguists may not find Atkinson's overall ranking of phonological complexity insightful, but a glance at his table of languages (in the Supporting Online Material at:
 www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/332/6027/346/DC1)
reveals a recurring problem with the underlying data (credited to Ian Maddieson) that should be of concern to all who value WALS: in many cases the languages are ranked incorrectly.

In WALS, consonant inventories are ranked by size as Small (S; from 6 to 14 consonants), Moderately Small (MS; 15-18), Average (A; 19-25), Moderately Large (ML; 26-33), and Large (L; 34 or more). Atkinson converts these five ranked sizes into "normalized consonant diversity," the five values being figured to eight decimal places: 1.79538213 corresponds to L, 0.9579338 is ML, 0.12048546 is A, -0.7169629 is MS, and -1.5544112 is S. Starting at the top of the list of languages, my eye right away fell on several that have many consonants but are ranked as S (Abkhaz, Ahtna) or MS (Acoma). And sure enough, in WALS Abkhaz (with, say, 58 consonants) was ranked S, Acoma (39) was MS, and Ahtna (with 30; the Mentasta dialect adds 1) was S. (In the 2011 revision Abkhaz has been changed to L.) On the map for this feature it's easy to spot the anomaly of Oneida, with 10 consonants, given as ML (pink dot), next to Seneca, with 9, given correctly as S (blue dot). Upper Chehalis (40) is downgraded as ML, and Slavey (37), also given as ML, is either downgraded or mislabeled (if "Slave" refers to Hare, for which some sources are cited). When all 16 of the languages of California were checked, six of them proved to be incorrectly ranked: Diegueño (25 consonants, which should be A; in WALS "ML"), Southeastern Pomo (26, ML; WALS "MS"), Achumawi (29, ML; WALS "L"), Shasta (19, A; WALS "MS"), Karok (16, MS; WALS "ML"), and Yurok (22~23, A; WALS "ML"). WALS includes a statement that "a strong effort has been made to apply consistent criteria in determining the consonant inventory size. This sometimes leads to some difference from the conclusions in published descriptions of the languages concerned." Few of the discrepancies detailed above seem likely to be due to reanalysis, but if there are phoneme counts that differ from those in the cited sources these cases should probably be noted explicitly. For example, the ranking of Achumawi as L is not based on the cited sources by David Olmsted (which give 17

consonants) but presumably on Bruce Nevin's 1998 dissertation, and it's conceivable that the long consonants were counted as units. If so, some or all of the 16 long consonants of Shasta (some of which contrast with true geminates) should probably also be counted as unit phonemes.

Problems in the ranking of vowel inventories in WALS arise from the decision to count only distinct vowel qualities. "Long and short variants of the same vowel are always counted once, nasalized vowels do not add to the inventory as long as a non-nasalized counterpart occurs, and so on." This ostensibly reasonable and objective principle appears to have been difficult to apply consistently. For German, in which the short and long vowels have distinct qualities, it has given a tally of 14, making German the world record holder for vowel qualities. But for "Eastern Ojibwa" (Leonard Bloomfield's term for an Ottawa dialect) the rank computed is Small (defined as 2-4), even though its seven vowels (three short and four long) all have different qualities (as described in Bloomfield's grammar, the cited source), which ought to bump the ranking all the way to Large (defined as 7-14). Also ranked as Small is the inventory of Oneida, presumably because the two nasalized vowels were not added to the four oral vowels, but the nasalized vowels of Oneida are consistently described as having qualities different from any of the oral vowels, making it Average (5-6).

WALS makes it easy to post comments. SSILA members should submit corrections online to alert other users, and we should insist that the WALS editors incorporate the appropriate changes, as has now been done for Abkhaz.

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Smithsonian Institution
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CALL FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Colleagues,

If you want to hear from us, we want to hear from you. If your department or group has a website, we want to know about your most current research and publications. Please take the extra moment to keep us informed. Regional groups are encouraged to send us information about your activities.

Please send your editorials and information to the editor at: karenrolph at hotmail dot com.

Many thanks from the Editor

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
May 16, 2011, Department of Public Information

Press Conference by Chair of United Nations
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The tenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues would give delegates an opportunity to review more than 200 recommendations made over the last decade in discussing such issues as the role of indigenous peoples in the sustainable development debate, Forum Chair Mirna Cunningham said at a Headquarters press conference today.

She said the Forum, which opened at Headquarters today, would move beyond a discussion of indigenous peoples' right to water in the sense of access to safe drinking water and sanitation as it explored the link between water and other fundamental rights, such as territory and cultural and spiritual practices. It would explore how to wrap the indigenous perspective into the process leading up to "Rio+20", the Fourth United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil next June 2012, the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, and the concept of green economy. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization was adopted by the Conference of Parties to the Convention in Nagoya, Japan, last October.

The Forum' two-week session will give more than 1,300 delegates a chance to analyze progress on recommendations made in three areas: economic and social development; the environment; and free, prior and informed consent. "There are still gaps between what we recommended and what has been implemented on the ground," said Ms. Cunningham, an indigenous Miskita former member of the National Assembly in Nicaragua, where she also served as Minister for Health and Governor of the North Atlantic Coast. She is trained as a surgeon and teacher.

Accompanying her was Grand Chief Edward John, an indigenous leader from Canada, who recalled remarks by United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon at the Forum's opening, stating that one indigenous language dies every two weeks.

"That is staggering," said Chief John, noting that Government and United Nations officials frequently paid much attention to endangered plants or species. "But who says anything about an endangered language. I don't know whether to cry in my heart or be mad about it. …when a language dies, a civilization dies."

The Canadian Government allocated $6 million a year for languages, yet there were more than 600 indigenous communities speaking more than 50 languages, he said. They needed the governmental support that other important languages enjoyed, Chief John said, noting that the recommendations arrived at during each session of the Forum were only as good as the support behind them. "We need United Nations agencies to support us," he added.

Chief John helped develop the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007. He is Hereditary Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation, located on the banks of Stuart Lake in northern British Colombia.

In response to a question about Canada's indigenous languages, he said language experts expected only three of them to survive in the coming years.

Ms. Cunningham added that there were more than 80 indigenous languages in Colombia, where an active campaign to communicate the importance of maintaining those languages was under way.

Ms. Cunningham said that with two side events on the green economy on the agenda for this year's session, the Forum was working towards the development of a position paper for "Rio+20", detailing how indigenous peoples could participate in the green economy. Both speakers agreed that free, prior and informed consent was an important concept because it gave indigenous peoples an opportunity to participate in the development of their land and resources by requiring their consent regarding its use.

Asked whether the numerous recommendations had sparked actual change and eased the Forum's work, Ms. Cunningham said there had been concrete advances over the last decade in several United Nations agencies and at the country level, as in Nicaragua, for example. But the Forum still had to work "very hard" to make its recommendations heard, and it was not easy at the country level, she said. "The role of the Permanent Forum is to educate the United Nations system on how to work with indigenous people."

Noting that indigenous peoples had worked for more than 25 years at the United Nations to have the world community accept its reality, Chief John said he recognized the progress achieved over the last decade. The Permanent Forum was a body of the Organization and there were now mechanisms for experts, such as the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Additionally, indigenous peoples were now given access to States, as well as other United Nations bodies.

Yet there were still concerns, including those arising from efforts by some States to eliminate free, prior and informed consent in the area of intellectual property in respect of genetic resources. "Not so long ago the United Nations shut the door to us," he recalled. "Now we can use the General Assembly Hall."

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A New Monograph Series on South American Languages

Etnolinguistica.Org (http://www.etnolinguistica.org), a peer-maintained information hub on South American languages, publishes since 2009 the electronic journal *Cadernos de Etnolingüística* (ISSN 1946-7095), which includes, in addition to articles and research notes, a monograph series (Série Monografias).

So far, the monograph series has published two issues, both dealing with severely-endangered languages. The first issue, published last year, is an Arikapú-Portuguese dictionary organized by Hein van der Voort with Mamoa and Nazaré Arikapú, the last two speakers of the language (the former had unfortunately passed away by the time of publication). The second issue -- a study of Bora loans in Resígaro (Arawakan), by Frank Seifart -- has just been published. As everything else in the website, the monographs are freely available for download:

http://www.etnolinguistica.org/cadernos:monografias

For additional details, please see abstracts below. You can reach the editors by contacting:

Eduardo Ribeiro
co-editor, Cadernos de Etnolingüística
cadernos at etnolinguistica.org

Vocabulário Arikapú-Português
by Mamoa Arikapú, Nazaré Arikapú & Hein van der Voort

O presente vocabulário representa uma tentativa de tornar os resultados preliminares de um trabalho científico mais acessíveis às comunidades indígenas. O vocabulário foi feito com base no trabalho linguístico dos últimos dois falantes de Arikapú: dona Nazaré Arikapú e o falecido senhor Mamoa Arikapú, junto com o linguista Hein van der Voort. A última fase da produção do vocabulário foi facilitada consideravelmente pelo esforço da estudante de linguística Ana Carolina Ferreira Alves. Esperamos que este vocabulário possa ajudar a conscientizar as comunidades indígenas de Rondônia, assim como a sociedade envolvente, sobre a situação precariíssima da maioria das línguas indígenas no Brasil, e sobre a necessidade de estudá-las e protegê-las.

O vocabulário contém aproximadamente 1.350 entradas lexicais Arikapú-Português, com exemplos de uso e traduções portuguesas, e um índice Português-Arikapú no final. A ortografia empregada foi baseada no sistema fonológico Arikapú. Como alfabeto proposto para o Arikapú, foi adotada a ortografia prática da língua Djeoromitxí, desenvolvida pela linguista Nádia Pires e falantes nativos (1994, 1995).

Bora loans in Resígaro: Massive morphological and little lexical borrowing in a moribund Arawakan language
by Frank Seifart

This study analyzes the influence of Bora (Boran) on Resígaro (Arawakan), two languages of the Colombian-Peruvian Amazon region, using a newly discovered Resígaro wordlist from the 1930s (Manuel María de Mataró, no date), another wordlist from the late 1920s (Rivet & Wavrin, 1951), and another from the early 1970s (Allin 1976:382-458). It shows that despite heavy structural and morphological influence (Aikhenvald, 2001:182-190) Resígaro has borrowed relatively few lexical items, around 5% in all three sources. It also shows that the borrowing of entire sets of grammatical morphemes, including classifiers, number markers, and bound grammatical roots that is observable in contemporary Resígaro (Seifart 2011) goes back to at least the early 20th century. This suggests that this remarkable case of massive morphological borrowing is not merely an effect of language decay, linked to the current language endangerment situation of Resígaro, with only two surviving speakers.

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TUSWÉĊA TIÓṠPAYE REVITALIZATION

4th Annual Tusweca Tiospaye Lakota Dakota Nakota Language Summit 2011
November 17-19, 2011
Presentation proposal deadline: August 1, 2011

The Lakota Dakota Nakota Language Summit was created by Tusweca Tiospaye in 2008 in an effort to unite the Oceti Sakowin, Seven Council Fires of the Lakota Dakota Nakota Oyate, also known as the Great Sioux Nation, in efforts to keep the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota languages alive. Today it has become an international native language summit with tribes from across the United States and Canada taking part as participants working to revitalize their own tribal languages and as presenters share how they have been successful in their work to keep their language strong and flourishing.

Some Questions and Answers: Who should attend?
Educators, School Administrators, School Board Members, Parents, Students, Community Members, Tribal Councils, Elders; anyone working to teach or learn a native language.

Is the Lakota Dakota Nakota Language Summit for the Sioux people only?
No. All tribes should attend. This is an international language revitalization convention. The teaching/learning methods, strategies, models, resources, and technology that will be shared can be adapted to make a successful program for any native language.

Lakota Dakota Nakota Language Summit Contact Person

Mike Carlow Jr.
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(605) 867-6193

Please go to this url to see details:
http://www.tuswecatiospaye.org/2011summit
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In Honor and in Memory of Mickey Noonan
26th Linguistics Symposium at UW-Milwaukee

Language Death, Endangerment, Documentation, and Revitalization. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, October 20-22, 2011

In a globalized world where hundreds of languages are expected to become extinct in the 21st century, it is highly relevant to analyze the viability and continuity of threatened languages. The purpose of the 26th Linguistics Symposium is to discuss this impending loss to humankind from a multidisciplinary perspective.

We invite contributions for the assessment of this process from Linguistics, Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology, Education, and related fields. Equally welcome is the participation of practitioners in language revitalization efforts.

We wish to combine theoretical and practical perspectives for the analysis of the linguistic and social processes involved in language death, endangerment, documentation and revitalization. Topics include:

- The genetic and areal distribution of endangered languages
- Structural characteristics of endangered languages
- Cultural characteristics of endangered language communities
- Causes of language endangerment
- Documentation of endangered languages
- Language revitalization programs and practices
- Academic ethics and advocacy in language endangerment

Keynote Speakers

Daryl Baldwin
Myaamia Project, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
Neetawaapantamaanki Iilinwiaanki 'Searching For Our Talk'

Daniel L. Everett
Dean of Arts and Sciences, Bentley University
Cognitive Fire - Language as a Cultural Tool

Carol Genetti

Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara
Models of Language Revitalization: Toward a typology of community responses

Lenore Grenoble
Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago
Unanswered questions about Language Revitalization: New directions for research

K. David Harrison
Department of Linguistics, Swarthmore College, and National Geographic Society
Endangered languages: Local and Global Perspectives

Iren Hartmann
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany
Reporting on a Native Speaker – Linguist Collaborative Project: Creating a Hoocak Textbook

Marianne Mithun
Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara
What can Revitalization Work Teach us about Scholarship?

Fernando Ramallo
Linguistics, Universidade de Vigo, Galicia, Spain
The role of the neo-speaker in minority language revitalization

Sarah Thomason
Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan
How to avoid pitfalls in documenting endangered languages

Symposium Registration
Pre-registration (by September 1, 2011)
- Regular fee: $120
- Student fee: $60
Registration (after September 1, 2011)
- Late registration fee: $150
- Student late registration fee: $90

To Register
Register by filling out the registration form and sending it to us via mail, email, or fax as described below and on the form. Registration and more information are located at:

http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/conferences/linguistics2011/index.html

http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/conferences/linguistics2011/

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Symposium on Teaching and Learning Indigenous Languages of Latin America

October 30 - November 2, 2011
Kellogg Institute for International Studies
University of Notre Dame

The Association for Teaching and Learning Indigenous Languages of Latin America (ATLILLA) and the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame invite you to attend this symposium composed of panels, individual papers, round table discussions, interactive workshops, poster sessions, and technological tools showcases to be presented at the second Symposium on Teaching and Learning Indigenous Languages of Latin America (STLILLA-2011). Proceedings of the Symposium will be published.

The symposium's topical breadth will include:
- Best practices, methodologies, and strategies in indigenous languages pedagogy
- The interplay of research, theory, and practice in teaching and learning indigenous languages
- Languages as vehicles to cultures and the world of living experience
- Language revitalization and documentation
- Distance learning / online courses
- Issues of dialectology and standardization in language instruction
- Impact of language attitudes and ideologies on teaching and learning indigenous languages
- Intellectual, cultural, and political role of indigenous languages in Latin America
- Indigenous languages, cultures, and identity
- Connecting, celebrating and maintaining traditions through teaching
- Assessment and evaluation of indigenous language learning
- Innovative technologies for teaching and learning indigenous languages and cultures
- Effects of language policy and planning on the teaching and learning of indigenous languages
- Language, literacy, and cultural practices
- Issues of bi-literacy and bilingual education in Latin America
- Music/musicology and the teaching and learning of indigenous languages
- Sociolinguistics, applied linguistics, and pragmatics in the teaching and learning of indigenous languages

For more information please go to:
http://kellogg.nd.edu/projects/quechua/STLILLA

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Conference on Indigenous Languages of Latin America V (CILLA V), October 6-8, 2011 in Austin, Texas

The fifth Conference On Indigenous Languages Of Latin America will be held October 6-8, 2011, at the University of Texas at Austin. Papers will be presented in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, covering:

Grammar
Linguistic Anthropology
Sociolinguistics
Language Planning
Language Politics and Vitality
Linguistic Theory
Historical Linguistics
Discourse
Indigenous Literatures
Cooperation with the Community

CILLA V Keynote Speakers:

Pedro Mateo Pedro, Harvard University
Frank Seifart, EVA-MPI Leipzig
Luciana Storto, Universidade de São Paulo
Roberto Zavala, CIESAS Sureste

Convocatoria - CILLA V
Centro para Idiomas Indígenas de Latinoamérica, la Universidad de Texas, Austin

El quinto CONGRESO DE IDIOMAS INDÍGENAS DE LATINOAMÉRICA se llevará a cabo el 6-8 de octubre del 2011 en la Universidad de Texas en Austin. Se invitan resúmenes/abstractos sobre investigaciones de cualquier tema acerca de idiomas indígenas. No se aceptarán ponencias ya publicadas. Los temas pueden incluir, pero no se limitan a:

Gramática
Antropología Lingüística
Sociolingüística
Planificación Lingüística
Politicas Lingüísticas
Teoría Lingüística
Lingüística Histórica
Mantenimiento O Pérdida Lingüística
Discurso
Literatura Indígena
Colaboración con la Comunidad

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Call for News and Announcements

Please send your information, projects, and event information to the editor at: karenrolph at hotmail dot com.

The Editor

MEDIA WATCH

Trustees Learn Terms for Greetings in School Approved Okanagan Language Revitalization

Excerpts from: *Vernon Morning Star*
Author: Katherine Mortimer, May 22, 2011

In a relaxed and slightly more informal gathering than usual, Vernon School District trustees were given a mini lesson in the Okanagan language at this month's board meeting Tuesday.

Gathering at New Horizons Hall on the Okanagan Indian Band Reserve, trustees and administrators spent time socializing with band elders and members, while enjoying some traditional native tea. Elder Peggy Brewer led the proceedings with an opening prayer.

"Having a meeting here on the reserve is a high priority for us," said board chairman Bill Turanski. "We operate on the traditional territory and land of the Okanagan Nation and we really have appreciated the support we have received from this community and we have a great deal of respect for the traditions of the Okanagan people."

One of those traditions is the use of the Okanagan (nsyilxcen) language. Sandra Lynxleg, principal of aboriginal education for the district, outlined the course and its growth over the last two years, and introduced certified classroom teacher Ben Louis and language teachers Madeline Gregoire and Wilkie Louis.

The program began at Alexis Park elementary with 36 students studying the language in Grades 5 to 7. As well, a conversational pilot program was launched at W.L. Seaton secondary.

"We didn't have another certified teacher for the program so instead we had elders meet at lunch with students in an informal setting," said Lynxleg.

By the beginning of the current school year, Seaton had 28 students in Grade 8, with an introductory class for Grade 11 students.

The program uses resources from the Paul Creek Language Association, a non-profit society that promotes the use, preservation and revitalization of the Okanagan language in the communities of the Lower Similkameen Valley.

In working with his students, Louis uses web applications Salish Tutor and Storyteller, but he also makes use of the MimioTeach Interactive Whiteboard, giving trustees a demonstration.

"In teaching today's kids, they all have some kind of device and so we make use of technology because that's their world and teachers can help bridge the gap," he said. "It's an oral langauge, but they still need to get used to the reading and writing."

After the presentation, Gregoire had trustees laughing as they attempted to come to grips with the unfamiliar sounds of the language, learning to say hello and goodbye, "way," and good evening, "xast sklaxw."

"My goal is to hope that we have teachers and I know that there are kids I've taught out there who can speak the language. It's good to hear because a lot of people say it's going to be lost, but if we keep on pushing the kids, we'll keep it alive.

To read the complete article, please go to:

http://www.bclocalnews.com/okanagan_similkameen/vernonmorning star/news/122365224.html

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Amondawa Tribe and Abstract Ideas of Time

Excerpts from: *BBC News*
Author: Jason Palmer, May 19, 2011

The Amondawa were first contacted by the outside world in 1986, and now researchers from the University of Portsmouth and the Federal University of Rondonia in Brazil have begun to analyse the idea of time as it appears in Amondawa language.

The Amondawa lack the linguistic structures that relate time and space - as in our idea of, for example, "working through the night". The study, in *Language and Cognition*, shows that while the Amondawa recognise events occurring in time, it does not exist as a separate concept.

The idea is a controversial one, and further study will bear out if it is also true among other Amazon languages. "We're really not saying these are a 'people without time' or 'outside time',"

said Chris Sinha, a professor of psychology of language at the University of Portsmouth.

The Amondawa language has no word for "time", or indeed of time periods such as "month" or "year". The people do not refer to their ages, but rather assume different names in different stages of their lives or as they achieve different status within the community.

But perhaps most surprising is the team's suggestion that there is no "mapping" between concepts of time passage and movement through space. Ideas such as an event having "passed" or being "well ahead" of another are familiar from many languages, forming the basis of what is known as the "mapping hypothesis". But in Amondawa, no such constructs exist. "None of this implies that such mappings are beyond the cognitive capacities of the people," Professor Sinha explained. "It's just that it doesn't happen in everyday life."

These arguments do not convince Pierre Pica, a theoretical linguist at France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), who focuses on a related Amazonian language known as Mundurucu. "To link number, time, tense, mood and space by a single causal relationship seems to me hopeless, based on the linguistic diversity that I know of," he told BBC News.

Dr Pica said the study "shows very interesting data" but argues quite simply that failing to show the space/time mapping does not refute the "mapping hypothesis". Small societies like the Amondawa tend to use absolute terms for normal, spatial relations - for example, referring to a particular river location that everyone in the culture will know intimately rather than using generic words for river or riverbank. These, Dr Pica argued, do not readily lend themselves to being co-opted in the description of time. "When you have an absolute vocabulary - 'at the water', 'upstream', 'downstream' and so on, you just cannot use it for other domains, you cannot use the mapping hypothesis in this way," he said. In other words, while the Amondawa may perceive themselves moving through time and spatial arrangements of events in time, the language may not necessarily reflect it in an obvious way.

To read the complete article, please go to:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-13452711

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The Editor invites letters on these topics. The article above may be provided additional context by the following article from 2004.

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Brazil Tribe Proves Word Count

Excerpted from: *BBC News*
Author: no author named, August 20, 2004

Researchers discovered the Piraha tribe of Brazil, with a population of 200, has no words beyond one, two and many. The word for "one" can also mean "a few", while "two" can also be used to refer to "not many".

Peter Gordon of Columbia University in New York said their skill levels were similar to those of pre-linguistic infants, monkeys, birds and rodents. He reported in the journal Science that he set the tribe simple numerical matching challenges, and they clearly understood what was asked of them. "In all of these matching experiments, participants responded with relatively good accuracy with up to two or three items, but performance deteriorated considerably beyond that up to eight to 10 items," he wrote.

The tiny tribe lives in groups of 10 to 20 along the banks of the Maici River in the Lowland Amazon region of Brazil. Dr Gordon said they live a hunter-gatherer existence and reject any assimilation into mainstream Brazilian culture. He added that the tribe uses the same pronoun for "he" and "they" and standard quantifiers such as "more", "several" and "all" do not exist in their language. "The results of these studies show that the Piraha's impoverished counting system truly limits their ability to enumerate exact quantities when set sizes exceed two or three items," he wrote. "For tasks that required cognitive processing, performance deteriorated even on set sizes smaller than three."

The findings lend support to a theory that language can affect thinking. Linguist Benjamin Lee Whorf suggested in the 1930s that language could determine the nature and content of thought.

Return to older media article at:
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Colombia: Saving dying languages: Nearly half of Colombia's 68 indigenous languages are in danger of disappearing altogether.

Excerpted from: Global Post
Author: John Otis, May 15, 2011

Only about 50 people still speak Uitoto, out of the 600 members of the indigenous Uitoto tribe in the southern Colombian jungle. The rest communicate in Spanish which they view as more modern and useful.

Uitoto is one of 68 indigenous languages spoken in Colombia, but only three are spoken by more than 50,000 people. In fact, about 30 are in danger of disappearing altogether, said Daniel Aguirre, who heads the Center for the Study of Aboriginal Languages at the University of the Andes in Bogota. "We have languages, like Barasana, that only 200 people speak," Aguirre said. "The last speaker of the Tinigua language died three years ago."

With both Atlantic and Pacific coastlines and located close to Caribbean islands, Colombia has long been a crossroads for indigenous groups. In the 1500s, Spanish explorers reported that native peoples here spoke at least 300 distinct languages. Many survived thanks to Colombia's diverse topography of mountains and jungles that allowed tribes to remain isolated from Spanish-speaking outsiders. Today, Colombia ranks fourth in the world in the number of spoken indigenous languages, after Brazil, Mexico and Peru. But indigenous groups are coming under massive pressure to assimilate.

Unless located on tribal lands, public schools ignore indigenous languages and teach in Spanish. Rather than evincing pride in their language, many indigenous youths adopt Spanish as a way to move up in the world. Even higher education sometimes gives indigenous dialects short shrift. Rafael Epiaje, a Wayuu Indian, recalled how he was asked to learn a second language to meet graduation requirements at Bogota's National University. Epiaje replied that he spoke both Spanish and Wayuu, but school administrators said Wayuu didn't count.

Major demographic shifts have also undercut linguistic diversity. Thousands of indigenous people have been uprooted by Colombia's ongoing drug and guerrilla war. In search of jobs, others have moved to the cities and learned Spanish. Meanwhile, Spanish is encroaching on remote tribal areas as private companies explore nearby regions for gold and set up industrial farms while some settlers grow coca or opium, the raw material for cocaine and heroin.

Aguirre, who has spent years studying the language of the Embera, says his work with that indigenous group has become more difficult because more and more Spanish words are being mixed with the local dialect. He estimates that one indigenous language in Colombia disappears every two years. "We didn't recognize what we had," Aguirre said. For a long time Colombians "didn't value these languages because Indians were deemed the lowest members of society."

Yet language is the connective tissue of indigenous cultures, said Juan Mayr, a former Colombian environment minister. "It reflects people's traditions, history and cosmology," he said. "That's why if you lose the language you immediately lose the culture."

Linguists and anthropologists are sounding the alarm. The National University, which years ago dismissed Wayuu, now offers courses in Nasa, Uitoto, Embera and Wayuu — which is taught by Epiaje, the former student. During one of his recent classes, Epiaje recited the numbers and expounded on their deeper meaning. Pronouncing "one" in Wayuu, he explained, goes beyond numerical value because it can also signal support for the collective good of the community.

Since the 1960s, the Summer Institute of Linguistics, now known as SIL International, has sent hundreds of missionaries to Colombia. In their efforts to translate the Bible and promote Christianity, they put together a written database of 38 indigenous languages.

To read the complete article, please go to:

http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/americas/colombia/110505/indigenous-languages-dying

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Southern Unami Historical and Cultural Record

Delaware Indian Language of 1824, by C. C. Trowbridge; Edited by James A. Rementer, 2011.Merchantville, NJ: Evolution Publishing.

In 1823, a man named Charles C. Trowbridge went to Indiana Territory on an assignment from Governor Lewis Cass of the Michigan Territory. His mission was to obtain the answers to a list of questions pertaining to the Lenape or Delaware language. After only two and a half months, Trowbridge collected over 280 pages of handwritten information, making the first full-fledged treatment of Southern Unami, the dialect spoken by the two groups still existing in Oklahoma today. This is the dialect that was spoken in the southern half of New Jersey, southeastern Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

After almost two centuries, Delaware Indian language scholar James A. Rementer has now edited and published Trowbridge's extremely thorough study in full. With well over a hundred pages devoted to verb forms alone, and extended word-by-word analyses of texts such as the Lord's Prayer and common phrases, Trowbridge's work serves not only as a detailed grammar but also as an invaluable cultural record from a time when the Lenape community was on its journey from the Mid-Atlantic toward the west. Rementer's extensive introductory material puts in context the historical forces that went into producing this text, with a biography of Captain Pipe, one of Trowbridge's primary Indian informants.

Contributions by linguist Bruce Pearson and historian Timothy Crumrin round out the picture with biographies of Trowbridge himself and William Conner.

Hardcover ~ 314 pp. ~ ISBN 978-1-935228-06-6 ~ $80.00*

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Language Documentation and Conservation Essays

Fieldwork and Linguistic Analysis in Indigenous Languages of the Americas, by Andrea Berez, Jean Mulder, and Daisy Rosenblum, eds, 2010. Language Documentation and Conservation Special Publication No. 2. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. Forward by Marianne Mithun.

Abstracts as they appear online:

Chapter 2. *Sociopragmatic influences on the development and use of the discourse marker vet in Ixil Maya*
Jule Gómez de García, Melissa Axelrod, and María Luz García

In this paper we explore the functions of the particle vet in Ixil Mayan and argue that it is a discourse marker used to perform both structural and pragmatic functions. Vet serves as a structural marker indicating temporally or causally interdependent items; it also has sociopragmatic functions, allowing speakers to present an evaluation of a discourse that invites interlocutors to also take a stance both on the information presented and on their roles in particular sociocultural activities. These functions of managing negotiations among interlocutors range from agreements on descriptive terms to calls for social action among entire groups, in all cases highlighting the social nature both of discourse and of group activity. The overlapping of the structural and pragmatic functions of vet demonstrates the grammaticalization cline ranging from adverb to discourse marker proposed by Traugott (1997). Our examination of vet in a range of genres produced by the Mujeres por la Paz of Nebaj, El Quiché, Guatemala, a cooperative formed in 1997 by Ixil Maya women who were widowed or left fatherless during the Guatemalan civil war, suggest that the effects of the individual and group identities and motivations of participants outweighs anticipated genre effects.

Chapter 3. *Classifying clitics in Sm'algyax: Approaching theory from the field*
Jean Mulder and Holly Sellers

Sm'algyax (British Columbia and Alaska) is a highly ergative VAO/VS language with an uncommonly wide range of clitics. This chapter has the two-fold function of demonstrating how Anderson's (2005) constraint-based analysis of clitics gives insight into the complex behavior of Sm'algyax clitics, and how the clitics themselves afford empirical means of testing such a theory. The Sm'algyax data are drawn from both field research and published texts, reflecting a community-based approach to language documentation that has evolved through a long-term, collaborative relationship with the Tsimshian (Sm'algyax) communities. Building on Stebbin's (2003) definitions of intermediate word classes in Sm'algyax and Anderson's Optimality Theoretical approach, we determine that in terms of their varying phonological dependence, Sm'algyax clitics include internal, phonological word, and affixal clitics. The existence of affixal clitics in Sm'algyax, however, calls into question the viability of the Strict Layer Hypothesis (Selkirk 1984) as inviolable rules when describing clitics. Furthermore, Sm'algyax provides strong evidence that the direction of clitic attachment is more clitic specific than language specific. In characterising the behaviour of Sm'algyax clitics, we find that not only does linguistic theory help sharpen our understanding of the fieldwork data, but also that field linguistics has consequences for linguistic theory.

Chapter 4. *Noun class and number in Kiowa-Tanoan: Comparative-historical research and respecting speakers' rights in fieldwork*
Logan Sutton

The Kiowa-Tanoan family is known to linguists by two characteristic features: a) a package of complex morphosyntactic structures that includes a typologically marked noun class and number marking system and b) the paucity of information available on the Tanoan languages due to cultural ideologies of secrecy. This paper explores both of these issues. It attempts to reconstruct the historical noun class-number system based on the diverging, yet obviously related, morphosemantic patterns found in each of the modern languages, a study that would be greatly benefited by fieldwork and the input of native speakers. At the same time, it reviews the language situation among the Kiowa-Tanoan-speaking communities and what some of the difficulties are in doing this kind of fieldwork in the Pueblo Southwest, touching on the myriad complex issues involving the control of information and the speech communities' rights over their own languages as well as the outside linguist's role in such a situation. The paper underscores these points by using only language data examples from previous field research that are already available to the public so as not to compromise native speakers' sensitivity to new research on their languages.

Chapter 5. *The story of *ô in the Cariban family*
Spike Gildea, B.J. Hoff, and Sérgio Meira

This paper argues for the reconstruction of an unrounded mid central/back vowel *ô to Proto-Cariban. Recent comparative studies of the Cariban family encounter a consistent correspondence of ə : o : ɨ : e, tentatively reconstructed as *o2 (considering only pronouns; Meira 2002) and *ô (considering only seven languages; Meira & Franchetto 2005). The first empirical contribution of this paper is to expand the comparative database to twenty-one modern and two extinct

Cariban languages, where the robustness of the correspondence is confirmed. In ten languages, *ô merges with another vowel, either *o or *ɨ. The second empirical contribution of this paper is to more closely analyze one apparent case of attested change from *ô > o, as seen in cognate forms from Island Carib and dialectal variation in Kari'nja (Carib of Surinam). Kari'nja words borrowed into Island Carib/Garífuna show a split between rounded and unrounded back vowels: rounded back vowels are reflexes of *o and *u, unrounded back vowels reflexes of *ô and *ɨ. Our analysis of Island Carib phonology was originally developed by Douglas Taylor in the 1960s, supplemented with unpublished Garifuna data collected by Taylor in the 1950s.

Chapter 6. *Multiple functions, multiple techniques: The role of methodology in a study of Zapotec determiners*
Donna Fenton

Field linguists use a combination of techniques to compile a grammatical description, starting with various types of targeted elicitation and followed by the study of more natural speech in the form of recorded texts. These usual techniques were employed in my work on Teotitlán del Valle Zapotec, an Oto-Manguean language spoken in Mexico, but in an unusual order, with texts, mainly folk tales and life histories told by community elders, being collected and analyzed first due to the priorities of the documentation project I was a part of. This paper examines the role that methodology played in the investigation into one small area of the grammar, a set of noun phrase-final determiner clitics. These clitics make both spatial and temporal distinctions, raising theoretical questions regarding the role of a temporal marker in the NP. At the same time, it brought to light some interesting issues surrounding methodology in fieldwork: how does the method of collection affect the type of data gathered, and does the order in which different methodologies are employed affect the final outcome?

Chapter 7. *Middles and reflexives in Yucatec Maya: Trusting speaker intuition*
Israel Martínez Corripio and Ricardo Maldonado

In this paper we provide a characterization of the middle construction in YM, and show that the apparently unpredictable distribution of middle voice in YM corresponds to a neatly identified, and quite limited, system of absolute events, i.e., events in which no energy is expended (Langacker 1987). This strategy is not exploited by other related Mayan languages, which tend to encode all absolute events as simple intransitive verbs. The semantic coherence of middle voice in YM is only discernible by combining analysis of narrative texts and direct elicitation with attention to speaker intuition in a variety of situational contrastive contexts guided by cognitive principles which are known to determine the behavior of middle voice systems in other languages.

Chapter 8. *Studying Dena'ina discourse markers: Evidence from elicitation and narrative*
Olga Charlotte Lovick

This paper is concerned with discourse markers in Dena'ina Athabascan. One problem for transcribers and translators of Dena'ina texts is the great number of particles (i.e., words that cannot be inflected) that, according to speaker judgments "have no meaning" or "mean something else in every sentence." This suggests that these particles are discourse markers, whose function is to relate discourse units to each other and to the discourse as a whole. The paper contrasts two different forms of linguistic inquiry: direct inquiry in the field, by elicitation of meaning and function of the discourse markers, and indirect inquiry, by study of a corpus of Dena'ina narratives. While elicitation is helpful in obtaining an initial gloss for the discourse markers, it is shown that only the study of texts will give us insight into the function of such particles and allows us to understand the important differences between particles that, on first sight, appear to be synonymous.

Chapter 9. *Be careful what you throw out: Gemination and tonal feet in Weledeh Dogrib*
Alessandro Jaker

The Weledeh dialect of Dogrib (Tłı̨chǫ Yatiì) is spoken by people of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, in and around Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Within the formal framework of Lexical Phonology (Kiparsky 1982), this paper argues for an over-arching generalization in the phonology of Weledeh Dogrib: the constraint NoContour-Ft, which prefers (High-High) and (Low-Low) feet, but militates against (High-Low) and (Low-High) feet. NoContour-Ft is satisfied differently in different morphophonological domains: vowel deletion at the Stem Level, gemination at the Word Level, and High to Mid tone lowering at the Postlexical Level. This analysis requires that consonant length be treated as phonological in Dogrib—that is, consonant length contributes to syllable weight and mora count—even though there are no minimal pairs based on consonant length. Similarly, the distinction between High and Middle tone does not distinguish any lexical items, but is nevertheless important for the prosody of the language. Thus the paper makes a methodological point about the importance of allophonic alternations for phonological theory. Our view of what counts as contrastive or allophonic, however, is to a large extent theory-dependent; therefore, the paper also emphasizes the importance of phonetic measurements when doing fieldwork.

Chapter 10. *Revisiting the source: Dependent verbs in Sierra Popoluca (Mixe-Zoquean)*
Lynda Boudreault

Sierra Popoluca (SP) is a Mixe-Zoquean language, spoken by about 28,000 individuals in southern Veracruz, Mexico. The objectives of this paper are (1) to explore the structures of dependent verb constructions in SP and the contexts in which they occur and (2) to highlight the stages in which data is

gathered and the interplay between text collection, elicitation, and analysis. SP is an ergative, polysynthetic, head-marking language. It has five dependent verb construction types. Early analyses suggested that dependent verbs were non-finite, nominalized forms. Further research indicated that the verbs are components in complex predicates that share inflection for aspect/mood, person, and number. Implicated in the analysis of these constructions are: the prosodic system; the alignment system, which is hierarchically driven with split ergativity; and the number system, also hierarchically driven. The teasing apart of the various grammatical features led to a multi-step process of analyzing and collecting data. By looking at a complex grammatical structure, this paper highlights the interdependency of corpus building, text analysis, and elicitation and the strategies used to negotiate between naturally occurring speech, in which data may be obscured by phonology, and elicited data, which frequently produces periphrastic constructions or alternative utterance types.

For more information on this book, please go to:
http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/4463

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HHS GRANTS CALL FOR 2012
Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance - Esther Martinez Initiative- Through the Department of Health and Human Services

HHS-2011-ACF-ANA-NL-0140
Application Deadline for year 2012: 01/31/2012

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Administration for Native Americans (ANA) announces the availability of fiscal year 2011 funds for community-based projects for the Native American Language Preservation and Maintenance - Esther Martinez Initiative. The purpose of ANA grant funding is to promote economic and social self-sufficiency for American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American Pacific Islanders from American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Esther Martinez Initiative provides funding to support three-year projects being implemented by Native American Language Nests, Survival Schools, and Restoration Programs in accordance with P.L. 109-394.

Statutory Authority
This program is authorized under 803C of the Native American Programs Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. 2991b and 2991b-3, as amended by the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006, Public Law 109-394.

Description
The Esther Martinez Initiative supports the revitalization of Native American languages to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of these languages and the culture of native peoples for future generations. Immersion and Restoration grant funding is awarded in accordance with the Ester Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006 to Native American language nests, survival schools, and restoration programs.

Funding Foci

- *Language Nest Projects:* Providing instruction and child care through the use of a Native American language and ensuring a Native American language is the dominant medium of instruction.
- *Language Survival School Projects:* Working toward a goal of all students achieving fluency in a Native American language & academic proficiency.
- *Language Restoration Programs:* Using immersion techniques to provide instruction in at least one Native American language and working towards the goal of increasing proficiency and fluency in that language.

Applicant Eligibility

All applicants applying for a grant under this Funding Opportunity Announcement must include a detailed description of the current status of the Native American language to be addressed by this project and provide a description of any existing Native American language programs. It is preferable that information provided about the current status of the Native American language be from data collected withing the past 36 months. Applicants without an existing language program should provide an explanation of the barriers or circumstances that have prevented the establishment of a community Native American language program.

ANA requires that applicants applying for grants to carry out the purposes of a language survival school (see Section I. Definitions) must submit a certification (see Section I. Definitions) demonstrating that the applicant has at least three years experience operating and administering a Native American language nest, Native American language survival school, or any other educational program in which instruction is conducted in a Native American language.

Eligible applicants include Federally recognized Indian Tribes; consortia of Indian Tribes; incorporated non-Federally recognized Tribes; incorporated non-profit multi-purpose community-based Indian organizations; urban Indian centers; National or regional incorporated non-profit Native American organizations with Native American community-specific objectives; Alaska Native villages, as defined in the Alaska

Native Claims Settlement Act and/or non-profit village consortia; incorporated non-profit Alaska Native multi-purpose community-based organizations; non-profit Alaska Native Regional Corporations/Associations in Alaska with village-specfic projects; non-profit native organizations in Alaska with village-specific projects; public and non-profit private agencies serving Native Hawaiians; public and private non-profit agencies serving native peoples from Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (the populations served may be located on these islands or in the United States); tribally controlled community colleges, tribally controlled post-secondary vocational institutions, and colleges and universities located in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands which serve Native Pacific Islanders; and non-profit Alaska Native community entities or tribal governing bodies (Indian Reorganization Act or Traditional Councils) as recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity announcement.

For more information, please go to:
http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/view/HHS-2011-ACF-ANA-NL-0140

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NSF- Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) Grantees 2011

Award Abstract #1109101

RAPID: Zaparo [zro] RAPID Documentation Project (ZRDP)

Brenda Bowser (Principal Investigator)
bbowser at fullerton dot edu
Christine Beier (Co-Principal Investigator)

The Zaparo Documentation Project (ZRDP) will bring together remaining speakers of Zaparo, a linguistic isolate spoken in the Ecuador. There are three last speakers of this under-documented language who are in their nineties and in frail health. The outcomes of this project are pivotal to understanding the typological features which characterize the Zaparo language family. The project records conversational interactions and oral narratives from which a corpus will be constructed with interlinearalized transcriptions. The project will be valuable to researchers and to community members as the final products include the central corpus (in video and audio formats), a Zaparo-Spanish-Quichua Dictionary and a Zaparo primer.

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Award Abstract #0966026

Conversational Pomo Documentation Project

Nicole Lim (Principal Investigator)
carololiva at cimcc dot org

This project will create a web-based, spoken dictionary of Eastern Pomo with a Pomo elder who is the lone fluent native speaker, to meet the speech community's need for modern documentation of this fast disappearing language. One of seven distinct Pomoan languages, Eastern Pomo fills a unique gap in this family of languages and is seriously under-documented. The spoken dictionary will be constructed within the Pomo Language Repository, an existing, password-protected, web application that features a searchable database of digital Pomo language resources. In creating the first digital spoken dictionary of Eastern Pomo, this project will model methods for contextualizing Pomo language documentation within a modern conversational learning framework, while providing an accessible resource for Eastern Pomo learners, teachers and scholars.

The research team for this project will consist of a linguist, Pomo community members who staff the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) Pomo Language Preservation Program, and the speaker of Eastern Pomo. The team will begin the project by working with CIMCC's database specialist to create a lexical database, the structure of which will guide the subsequent fieldwork. The team will then work together to record 80 hours or more of the language data needed to create the dictionary. Modern documentation of Eastern Pomo is scarce. With only one fluent speaker remaining, it is vital to create a modern record of the language practices characteristic of Eastern Pomo to inform on-going conversational growth in the language as conversation is the heart of language revitalization and cultural development.

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Award Abstract #0966411

From Endangered Language Documentation to Phonetic Documentation

Douglas Whalen (Principal Investigator)
whalen at Haskins dot yale dot edu

Modern language documentation projects endeavor to obtain high quality audio recordings so that the material will be useful for phonetic analysis at a later point, but it is not clear how useful the material being collected will be. The present project will examine archival material in three languages to see how much material, and of what sort, is needed for phonetic description of a language. To do that, three languages will be studied: Tarahumara/Rarámuri [ISO 639 tar], Nahuatl of the Balsas valley of central Guerrero [ISO 639 ngu], and

Arapaho [ISO 639 arp]. These each have extensive documentation in existence, and measurements from these sources will be examined for the statistical properties of the languages in question. In particular, the number of speakers and repetitions of items required to give an accurate view of a language's phonetic structure will be tested. New evidence from Arapaho, including acoustics and static palatography, will be used as a comparison. A sketch of the phonetics of the three languages will be produced, along with a deeper analysis of a small number of specific features. Recommendations for best practice will also be generated.

Endangered language documentation is of increasing value to both linguistic science and to indigenous communities. The phonetic aspects of a language are important for knowing how linguistic distinctions are made and for possible reconstruction by heritage learners. A transformative aspect of this research is the definition of phonetic norms not only for endangered language documentation but for documentation of any language; despite years of analysis, this issue has not been satisfactorily resolved. Finally, the project will provide training for students in language documentation and phonetic analysis.

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Award Abstract #0966588

Collaborative Research: Recording Toponyms to Document the Endangered Hopi Language [hop]

Peter Whiteley (Principal Investigator)
whiteley at amnh dot org

Editor's Note: This award is a collaboration with #0965949, which follows. KSR

With funding from the NSF Documenting Endangered Language Program, the University of Arizona and the American Museum of Natural History are collaborating with the Hopi Tribe to record toponyms (place names) as a means of documenting the endangered Hopi language. While most Hopis over the age of fifty learned Hopi as their first language, and remain fluent, today less that 5% of Hopis younger than nineteen speak the language. As senior speakers pass away, knowledge of toponyms and the cultural practices they encode is being lost. The project will produce a lexicon of toponyms using digital audio and video files to preserve the sounds of the names vocalized by native speakers of Hopi. These place names will be transcribed using a standard orthography developed by the Hopi Tribe. Cultural, social, historical, and geographical information about each place name will be documented in a geographic information systems database. The toponyms to be documented during this project constitute a potent and understudied linguistic domain. In Hopi discourse, important ideas and processes involving cultural and historical order are localized, commemorated in the landscape, and indexed by place names. Events happened at

particular places: an understanding of events is embedded in place names, so knowledge of those places and an understanding of place-names are needed to fully document Hopi language and history. The working hypothesis for the project is that the Hopi have a systematic theory of place and place-naming that has not received the scholarly attention necessary for scholarly comprehension. This research project will articulate a grounded theory of Hopi toponyms to create a body of knowledge can be compared to systems of place-naming in other indigenous communities.

Although Hopi has been the subject of substantial ethnographic research over the last 125 years, there has been relatively little work that documents the morphology, phonology, etymology, meaning, and use of toponyms. The information documented by this project will provide significant linguistic and anthropological information about Hopi cultural transmission, moral instruction, and symbolic links between cultural landscapes and identity. This information is important for understanding the development of the Uto-Aztecan language family. Documenting place names will also provide important information for future use in tribal language preservation programs and reservation curriculum development, thus helping to disseminate Hopi linguistic and cultural knowledge among Hopi youth. Preserving knowledge about Hopi place names will increase public understanding of Hopi history as it relates to the geography of the Southwest.

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Award Abstract #0965949

Collaborative Research: Recording Toponyms to Document the Endangered Hopi Language

T Ferguson (Principal Investigator)
tjf at email.arizona dot edu

With funding from the NSF Documenting Endangered Language Program, the University of Arizona and the American Museum of Natural History are collaborating with the Hopi Tribe to record toponyms (place names) as a means of documenting the endangered Hopi language. While most Hopis over the age of fifty learned Hopi as their first language, and remain fluent, today less that 5% of Hopis younger than nineteen speak the language. As senior speakers pass away, knowledge of toponyms and the cultural practices they encode is being lost. The project will produce a lexicon of toponyms using digital audio and video files to preserve the sounds of the names vocalized by native speakers of Hopi. These place names will be transcribed using a standard orthography developed by the Hopi Tribe. Cultural, social, historical, and geographical information about each place name will be documented in a geographic information systems database. The toponyms to be documented during this project constitute a potent and understudied linguistic domain. In Hopi discourse, important ideas and processes involving cultural and historical order are localized, commemorated in the landscape, and indexed by place names. Events happened at particular places: an understanding of events is embedded in

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Award Abstract #0966046

Collaborative Research: Documenting Wounmeu (NOA)

Elizabeth Kennedy (Principal Investigator)
kennedye at email dot arizona dot edu

This project documents Wounmeu (NOA), a Chocó language of Central and South America, via the analysis of sixty years of recorded myths and legends from Colombia and Panama. There are approximately 7,000 adult Wounaan in Panama and the same number in Colombia according to the last censuses. The research goals of this project have been co-determined with the aid of Wounaan leaders and esteemed story-tellers in Panama. They include 1) preparation and archiving of audio recordings of Wounaan myths and legends, 2) documentation and analysis of the Wounaan language and culture through transcription and translation of the myths and legends, 3) a Wounmeu-Spanish dictionary, 4) training of native speakers in language documentation, and 5) dissemination of the research results.

This research reflects the speaker community's passionate interest in language documentation and conservation as they experience their children's loss of language fluency. It documents a small and understudied language, Wounmeu, one of only two languages in the Chocó language group. For language documentation, this project draws on an uncommon historical depth of cultural and linguistic materials spanning sixty years. It makes available and permanently archives these historic audio recordings. Central to this project is the training

of Wounaan, a historically underrepresented group, in language documentation and dissemination. Wounaan will be the main workforce in this project, and project researchers will train Wounaan in linguistic skills, cultural and language documentation, materials development, and computer skills. In addition, this research will greatly enhance the infrastructure available to Wounaan via the Foundation for the Development of Wounaan People in Panama, including computing and internet availability. The project also provides training for a joint anthropology and linguistics graduate student. Conference papers and articles will report on linguistics and collaborative language documentation.

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Award Abstract #0966520

Collaborative Research: Documenting Wounmeu (NOA)

Julie Velasquez Runk (Principal Investigator)
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This project documents Wounmeu (NOA), a Chocó language of Central and South America, via the analysis of sixty years of recorded myths and legends from Colombia and Panama. There are approximately 7,000 adult Wounaan in Panama and the same number in Colombia according to the last censuses. The research goals of this project have been co-determined with the aid of Wounaan leaders and esteemed story-tellers in Panama. They include 1) preparation and archiving of audio recordings of Wounaan myths and legends, 2) documentation and analysis of the Wounaan language and culture through transcription and translation of the myths and legends, 3) a Wounmeu-Spanish dictionary, 4) training of native speakers in language documentation, and 5) dissemination of the research results.

This research reflects the speaker community's passionate interest in language documentation and conservation as they experience their children's loss of language fluency. It documents a small and understudied language, Wounmeu, one of only two languages in the Chocó language group. For language documentation, this project draws

on an uncommon historical depth of cultural and linguistic materials spanning sixty years. It makes available and permanently archives these historic audio recordings. Central to this project is the training of Wounaan, a historically underrepresented group, in language documentation and dissemination. Wounaan will be the main workforce in this project, and project researchers will train Wounaan in linguistic skills, cultural and language documentation, materials development, and computer skills. In addition, this research will greatly enhance the infrastructure available to Wounaan via the Foundation for the Development of Wounaan People in Panama, including computing and internet availability. The project also provides training for a joint anthropology and linguistics graduate student. Conference papers and articles will report on linguistics and collaborative language documentation.

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Award Abstract #0966584

Breath of Life Archival Institute for Indigenous Languages

Lisa Conathan (Principal Investigator)
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Leanne Hinton (Co-Principal Investigator)

Breath of Life (BOL) is a two-week workshop with 70 participants (40 Native American researchers and 30 mentors, lecturers and organizers) to take place in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2011. The purpose of the workshop is to breathe life into endangered languages of the Americas by connecting members of heritage communities with primary source material that documents their languages. BOL has been very successful in the context of indigenous California languages and this model is now being brought to a national level. Central to the workshop is collaboration between researchers (Native American heritage language learners) and mentors (experts in linguistics who guide the researchers' work), supplemented by lectures and workshops on linguistics and related topics. The workshop will be co-hosted by the Smithsonian Institution's National Anthropological Archives and National Museum for the American Indian, and the Library of Congress. The workshop will be the inaugural one in a biennial series that will be hosted at various archives throughout the country.

Breath of Life benefits three groups: endangered language communities, linguists who study and document endangered languages, and archives that preserve and provide access to documentation. Endangered language communities benefit from the expertise that researchers gain. Based on previous BOL experiences in California, Breath of Life stimulates language learning, teaching and research within heritage communities, sometimes resulting in long-term collaborative research. Linguists benefit by forging new or stronger relationships with endangered language communities, and by learning how documentation can be used effectively within heritage communities. Some linguists find that their approach to documentation and dissemination of data changes significantly after collaborating with endangered language communities. Archives benefit from the relationships developed during Breath of Life and from the associated publicity. Activities that highlight endangered language archives affirm their importance within their institutions and to the general public.

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Award Abstract #1022684

Origins of Numerical Competence: Assessment of Number Sense in Piraha

Edward Gibson (Principal Investigator)
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This RAPID project focuses on "fundamental" research on three distinct aspects of number sense: (1) a small exact number system; (2) a large approximate number system; and (3) a system for set-based quantification. Recent exploratory research suggests a strong linkage between number sense (particularly large numerical approximation systems) and student abilities in other domains of mathematics. The investigators will research the links among these three aspects, and the study is designed to further the preliminary findings (cited above).

The investigators propose a correlational study in which they test a population of the indigenous Piraha people of Brazil (a small, isolated, monolingual hunter-gatherer group from the Amazonas) and a sample of Americans (60 in each group) in a battery of cognitively-oriented tasks which measure different core numerical systems as well as other basic cognitive abilities like short-term memory and face perception (as control tasks). The Piraha are an ideal test case for understanding the relationship among core numerical systems because their language is has no words for numbers. In addition, the Piraha do not use exact number in their society and they do not adopt cultural or linguistic conventions from other cultures. A RAPID is justified because their population is threatened by imminent development.

This research is important because a deeper understanding of the conceptual/cognitive components of number sense and how they interrelate can lead to perhaps changed understandings of how students learn and teachers teach this area of mathematics. And, because number sense is so foundational to mathematics and because preliminary research results show its potential importance to future mathematics learning, the project may have a transformative impact on the field.

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Award Abstract #0965604

Collaborative Research: Kokama-Kokamilla and Omagua: Documentation, Description and (Non-)Genetic Relationships

Rosa Vallejos (Principal Investigator)
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Editor's Note: This award is a collaboration with #0966499, which follows. KSR

This collaborative project will complete the documentation and description of two highly endangered and closely-related Amazonian languages, Omagua and Kokama-Kokamilla, and seek to determine the origin of these two historically important languages. When Europeans arrived in the Americas, Omagua was one the largest languages of the Amazon basin. The Omaguas suffered tremendously during the European invasion, however, and Omagua now has fewer than ten

speakers, the youngest being 80 years old. Despite the historical importance of the language, there are no grammatical descriptions of Omagua, nor any lexical resources beyond colonial era wordlists. The area and situation is similar for Kokama-Kokamilla. The researchers will work closely with the remaining speakers of these endangered languages to develop dictionaries, a collection of oral and written texts, and grammatical descriptions of the languages. Dr. Michael will focus on the documentation of Omagua and Dr. Vallejos on the documentation of Kokama-Kokamilla to create a permanent record of the languages for use by the ethnic communities, linguists, anthropologists, and historians.

Beyond the basic scientific task of language documentation, this project aims at determining the relationship of Omagua and Kokama-Kokamilla to other Amazonian languages, and in doing so, gain insights into Pre-Columbian cultural history. Although long thought to be members of the continent-spanning Tupí-Guaraní family, recent work has demonstrated that Omagua and Kokama-Kokamilla arose through contact between speakers of a Tupí-Guaraní language and speakers of another unknown language. The result was a language that mixes aspects of the Tupí-Guaraní lexicon and grammar with those from the unknown contact language. By systematically comparing the lexicon and grammatical features of Omagua and Kokama-Kokamilla with those of other language families across Amazonia, and with specific languages in the area in which these two languages are spoken, Dr. Michael and Dr. Vallejos will clarify the linguistic processes involved in their genesis, thereby gaining insights into the cultural circumstances in which they arose.

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Award Abstract #0966403

Mandan Language: Documentation, Description and Training (mhq)

Alyce Spotted Bear (Principal Investigator)
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The intellectual merit of this project rests in the documentation of Mandan, which represents a separate branch of the Siouan language family and which, to date, has received little careful analysis. The researchers will work with the last fluent speaker of Mandan. This project, submitted by the Fort Berthold Community College, a tribal college of the Three Affiliated Tribes, will provide linguistic training to tribal members in technologically advanced methods of linguistic data collection and analysis aimed at preventing the loss of the highly endangered Mandan language. It will allow the Mandan Language Project to continue documenting conversational Mandan, and to produce a Mandan Dictionary. Data collected through the project will be used to construct a web-based Mandan Language database, which can be used for language acquisition by members of the Three Affiliated Tribes and other interested individuals. All data will be archived via the Fort Berthold Community College website.

This project will contribute to the Mandan language's continuation as a historically significant spoken language. The Mandan Indians, communicating in their language, represented one of the most important merchant tribes of the plains and contributed greatly to the success of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery by providing them with foodstuff and vital information during the winter of 1804. Additionally, of critical importance is the project creation of the web database, which will be accessible to all tribal entities, including the schools for instructional purposes, and to the linguistic community in general. This project's educational benefits to tribal members in linguistic fieldwork and language analysis are far-reaching in terms of their being able to share their acquired expertise with the community at-large. Finally, the project will provide a model for other tribal colleges in developing their language programs.

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Award Abstract #0966462

Corpus and lexicon development: Endangered genres of discourse and domains of cultural knowledge in Tu'un isavi (Mixtec) of Yoloxochitl, Guerrero

Jonathan Amith (Principal Investigator)
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This project will produce and use extensive primary documentation (over 100 hours of digital recordings and time-coded transcriptions) to analyze the phonetics, phonology, and morphosyntax of Yoloxóchitl Mixtec (YM), a little-studied, isolated Mixtecan verb-initial language spoken by 15,000 people in four villages within a 12 kilometer radius in coastal Guerrero, Mexico. The complex phonetics and phonology of Mixtecan languages (floating tones, sandhi, and the diversity of tonal sequences on the bimoraic tone-bearing-unit) is of significant theoretical interest. YM is noteworthy for its inventory of 5 tone levels and 18 sequences on the bimoraic tone bearing unit. Nasalization in Mixtecan languages has also attracted significant interest and here too YM is unusual in that nasal vowels are limited to word-final syllables. Syllable-initial vowels in disyllabic stems are never nasal. Finally, the acoustics of stress has received little attention in Mixtecan studies although the nature of stress in tonal languages is a complex topic of considerable theoretical concern. These and other topics in YM phonetics and phonology will be studied by an interdisciplinary research team, including a native speaker with a masters degree in linguistics and a team of phoneticians and phonologists.

Like other Mixtecan languages, YM is verb initial, a basic word order sequence represented in only approximately ten percent of world languages. This project will provide a detailed morphosyntactical study of this unusual type and address specific research questions, such as the pragmatic and discourse implications of nonbasic word order. The development of both an extensive corpus of transcribed

natural recordings and elicitation material targeting specific questions in YM morphology and syntax will provide an unusually rich set of materials for linguistic research. In sum, this project will provide extensive primary documentation and establish an analytical base for future linguistic studies, particularly in phonetics, phonology, and morphosyntax, areas in which YM is of typological interest.

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Award Abstract #0966499

Collaborative Research: Kokama-Kokamilla (cod) and Omagua (omg): Documentation, Description, and (Non-)Genetic Relationships

Lev Michael (Principal Investigator)
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This collaborative project will complete the documentation and description of two highly endangered and closely-related Amazonian languages, Omagua and Kokama-Kokamilla, and seek to determine the origin of these two historically important languages. When Europeans arrived in the Americas, Omagua was one the largest languages of the Amazon basin. The Omaguas suffered tremendously during the European invasion, however, and Omagua now has fewer than ten speakers, the youngest being 80 years old. Despite the historical importance of the language, there are no grammatical descriptions of Omagua, nor any lexical resources beyond colonial era wordlists. The area and situation is similar for Kokama-Kokamilla. The researchers will work closely with the remaining speakers of these endangered languages to develop dictionaries, a collection of oral and written texts, and grammatical descriptions of the languages. Dr. Michael will focus on the documentation of Omagua and Dr. Vallejos on the documentation of Kokama-Kokamilla to create a permanent record of the languages for use by the ethnic communities, linguists, anthropologists, and historians.

Beyond the basic scientific task of language documentation, this project aims at determining the relationship of Omagua and Kokama-Kokamilla to other Amazonian languages, and in doing so, gain insights into Pre-Columbian cultural history. Although long thought to be members of the continent-spanning Tupí-Guaraní family, recent work has demonstrated that Omagua and Kokama-Kokamilla arose through contact between speakers of a Tupí-Guaraní language and speakers of another unknown language. The result was a language that mixes aspects of the Tupí-Guaraní lexicon and grammar with those from the unknown contact language. By systematically comparing the lexicon and grammatical features of Omagua and Kokama-Kokamilla with those of other language families across Amazonia, and with specific languages in the area in which these two languages are spoken, Dr. Michael and Dr. Vallejos will clarify the linguistic processes involved in their genesis, thereby gaining insights into the cultural circumstances in which they arose.

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Award Abstract #0965784

Aretyry Kari'nja (Carib): Training Speech Community Members in Documentation, Description, and Materials Development

Spike Gildea (Principal Investigator)
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Racquel-Maria Yamada (Co-Principal Investigator)

This project allows Dr. Gildea and colleagues at the University of Oregon Eugene to conduct new documentary work on under-documented varieties of Kari'nja, an endangered language of Suriname. The researchers propose four activities: (i) bring members of the Aretyry Kari'nja-speaking community (of Suriname) to Oregon to receive training in language documentation and revitalization in the context of an independently-organized linguistic institute, (ii) record speakers of the language in Oregon where there is access to high-quality recording equipment not otherwise accessible to the community, (iii) conduct new documentary work on an under-documented varieties of Kari'nja in collaboration with Kari'nja speakers who received training in Oregon, and (iii) conduct training workshops for Kari'nja communities in Suriname to help them with their documentation efforts. The information uncovered by this project will enhance the scientific understanding of linguistic phenomena like typology of prosodic systems, work classes, and ergativity. The project will also produce high quality documentation of languages and dialects for which information is not easily accessible, and serves as a model for future collaborative documentation projects.

Beyond archived recordings, pedagogical materials, and academic analyses of stress and grammar, this project builds the capacity for future productivity. Those most affected by their language loss, Kari'nja themselves, are already active participants in documentation, description, and revitalizing their ancestral language. This project gives them more tools and training, which they will continue using long after the grant period. This project expands the documentation of Aretyry Kari'nja to other communities within and beyond Suriname's borders, and will permit the Konomerume, Cornelis Kondre, and Kalebas Kreek teams to design their own documentation projects.

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Award Abstract #0966257

Documentation of the Acoustic Phonetics of Shipibo
Jose Elias-Ulloa (Principal Investigator)
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The objective of this project is to document and analyze, from an acoustic perspective, the sound system of Shipibo-Conibo, an endangered Amazonian language indigenous to Peru. Shipibo has long puzzled linguists because of the ways its

consonants and vowels interact with other aspects of the language (in particular, its prosody and morphology). Besides the study of vowels and consonants, this project will provide a detailed characterization of the intonational patterns of Shipibo as well as an acoustic examination of the phenomenon of nasalization. The results obtained will allow for a much better understanding of how human languages vary cross-linguistically. In addition to the dissemination of the results through publications, a substantial amount of high quality digital audio recordings will be made available to the wider linguistic community through the Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America (http://www.ailla.utexas.org/).

A key element in the project is the educational potential it will yield. The project interweaves its research objectives with the training of graduate students, undergraduate students, and the collaboration of Shipibo native speakers in recording, analyzing and publishing the data. Part of the project includes the production of a bilingual (Spanish-Shipibo) children's book, the creation of which involves three generations of the Shipibo community. One of the aims of the children's book is to facilitate ways in which the Shipibo can participate in the conservation of their linguistic heritage.

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Award Abstract #0966676

Archiving and Processing Shuar Recordings, 1955-1990

Connie Dickinson (Principal Investigator)
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The main goal of the Shuar Language Documentation Project is to digitalize and process over 200 hours of Shuar recordings collected between 1955 and 1965 by the Salesiano missionary, Father Siro Pellizaro. The recordings will be digitalized, transcribed and translated. These recordings contain information and stories which have disappeared from the collective memory of the current generation of Shuar (Jivaro).

A strength of this proposal is the degree of collaboration with the Shuar. Young Shuar will be trained to carry out the bulk of the work themselves. During this process they will not only obtain important skills, but increase their knowledge and involvement with their own culture. The majority of indigenous cultures in South America, and indeed the world have undergone immense cultural and language shifts during the last century. The project will provide a rich database for those interested in language and culture change.

The information will be invaluable for linguists, anthropologists, historians, botanists and other scholars.

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Award Abstract #1045342

Workshop Award for Documentation of Northern Cheyenne Sacred Language

Karyl Eaglefeathers (Principal Investigator)
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Perhaps the lack of success in efforts to reinvigorate the Cheyenne language hinges partly on the fact that non-Cheyennes have been leading the charge, using non-indigenous approaches. This project supports training and workshop involvement for two young members of the Northern Cheyenne community. The experience will provide instruction in language documentation and an opportunity for sharing their experience with other indigenous language students and teachers. With this award, there is the unique opportunity for two bright, focused undergraduates, who have grown up in a very traditional Cheyenne community context, to be the informed bridge from the ancestors to those who are yet to come. They have the potential to be essential keys to the documentation, preservation and reinvigoration of the Cheyenne language.

This project will build on the linguistic documentation and analysis of the Cheyenne language. These students will develop skills and understanding to address the problem of language loss and stabilization, noting especially the need for resources integral to ground the pedagogy for teaching Native American languages within the speaker community.

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Message from the Editor: Dear Members,

A number of important NSF-DEL grants, not listed here, were granted for languages of the world. For more information on grants beyond the Americas, please visit: the NSF – Documenting Endangered Languages website.

KS Rolph