Occasional Papers On Linguistics

Papers from the 1987 Hokan-Penutian Languages Workshop and Friends of Uto-Aztecan Workshop, Held at University of Utah, Salt Lake City, June 18-21, 1987.

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PREFACE

For the first time, The Hokan-Penutian Languages Workshop and the Friends of Uto-Aztecan Working Conference met together as a single conference, at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, June 18-21, 1987. In the past, the conferences usually met back to back; the Uto-Aztecan meeting usually ended one or two days before the Hokan-Penutian meeting began, which gave people just enough time to travel from one location to the other. Since a number of people attend both meetings, it is hoped that these joint meetings can occur more often.

All the papers except the last one were given in a slightly different form at the meeting in Salt Lake City. The last paper was given at the 1986 Hokan-Penutian meeting, which met as a section the Haas Festival at Santa Cruz. The papers are given in the order they appeared at the meeting at the University of Utah.

The participants of the conference gratefully acknowledge all the work done by Professor Wick R. Miller, other faculty members, and the students at the University of Utah, which made the conference run so smoothly and enjoyably.

The 1988 Hokan-Penutian Languages Workshop will meet at the University of Oregon, Eugene, June 16-18, 1988.

James E. Fedden, Editor
Carbondale, March 1988
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A Report on The Yanan Project, University of California, Berkeley

Introduction

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The Yana-Yahi project was begun in 1986, with the primary goal of preparing for publication the texts narrated by Ishi to Edward Sapir in 1915. This is part of the collected works of Sapir, to be published by Mouton Press. To be included in this publication are a number of sets of hitherto unpublished texts on Indian languages, the preparation of which is being overseen by Victor Golla, and supported by NSF. The University of California was subcontracted to prepare the Yahi texts. The difficulty of the project lies in the fact that the translations are very incomplete. Using software developed by Ken Whistler, research assistant Jean Perry is entering the texts on an IBM-AT, and running a concordance program on them as an aid in completing the translation. Such a process also involves developing a sophisticated understanding of the grammar. Partly to this end, and partly to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about a fascinating language, we ran a year-long seminar on Yanan (the tight-knit language family of which Yahi is the southernmost member), wherein a group of scholars and students worked together to read published and unpublished materials on Yanan, organize grammatical information in a card file, and do original analytical studies of our own. Some of the members presented the results of their research at the 1987 summer conference. Since some of the papers presented there will not appear in this volume, I give a complete list of the conference presentations and their authors.

Victor Golla: Sapir’s Yahi Work: An Historical Perspective.
Ken Whistler: Hardware, software and analytic procedures.
Leanne Hinton: Yana Morphology -- a thumbnail sketch.
Jean Perry: Yahi morphology.
Scott Dillard: ‘Go’ verbs in Northern Yana.
Herb Luthin: Yana Stress Phenomena.
Mike Nichols: Yana/Yahi mammals (1884-1926).

While the conference represented the end of the seminar, the project is still continuing with a core group who are committed to further research on Yanan in general, and Yahi in particular.