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THE

Number 1 -- November 1968

An interdisciplinary newsletter distributed by the Department of Linguistics at Western Michigan University for the purpose of providing information about developments in linguistics to students, staff, and friends in the field.

INFORMANT

Mystery Rule

The first person to identify the usual name for the following rule will receive a handsome prize from our secretary (4th floor, Sprau Tower):

$PL + (C)X \Rightarrow X(C)/e/$

Hints: PL = the mystery variety of English.

(C) = any initial consonant or consonant cluster in an English word.
(Parentheses = optional.)

X = any sounds in an English word beyond the initial consonant or consonant cluster.

/e/ = the vowel sound in pay or weigh.

\Rightarrow = "transform the items at the left into the items at the right -- an English word."

Give up?

Linguistics Staff

The new Linguistics Department is alive and living on the fourth floor of Sprau Tower. It will celebrate its third (month) birthday on November 19, so send in those cards and letters.

The Department has a regular staff of four, who are, in order of descending importance,

Mrs. Elaine Moyer, Secretary and unofficial
"administrative assistant," 405 Sprau,
phone 3-0958 or 3-0064.

Mr. D.P.S. (Dwar) Dwarikesh, Assistant Professor
and Acting Critical Languages Supervisor,
411 Sprau, phone 3-0958.

Dr. Daniel Hendriksen, Assistant Professor and
Coordinator for English as a Foreign
Language, 411 Sprau, phone 3-0958.

Dr. Robert Palmatier, Professor and Chairman,
410 Sprau, phone 3-0064.

In addition, we have one part-time instructor, Miss Simona Pirš, an M.A. candidate in Area Studies; and one of our courses, Introduction to Linguistics, is taught in the field by Mrs. Penny Carlson, Assistant Professor of English

In future issues of THE INFORMANT we will carry verbal sketches of the members of our staff, but just in case we run out of money before then, here is a profile of Simona Pirš, who returns to Yugoslavia in December

Simona Pirš

Simona, a graduate student at Western, is serving for the second time as a "model" (native informant) in the Basic Serbo-Croatian class. In other words, she is teaching, testing, drilling, and correcting the five students in the class, one of whom is technically the "supervisor" of the course (Palmatier). Simona first served in this capacity under Dr. James Wilson last winter semester. (By the way, the term "model" fits her very well in another sense: she is a charming and beautiful girl.)

Simona received her degree in Geography and Tourism from the University of Ljubljana in her hometown of Ljubljana, province of Slovenia, Yugoslavia. While at the University, she worked at a resort hotel, in every job, as field experience for Tourism. After graduation she became a professional cartographer but also worked as secretary to the chairman of the committee for a Slovenian holiday, chief of the International Camping Grounds in Ljubljana, guide for a tourist agency, and secretary to the chairman of the International Speleological Association.

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Simona came to Western one year ago on the Faculty-Student Exchange Program -- first for graduate work in the Geography Department and now on a master's degree in the Institute of International and Area Studies. Her other interests include swimming, skiing, hiking, sewing, reading novels, and traveling (Eastern and Southwestern U.S.).*

Simona has helped the Linguistics Department establish that a critical language can be studied effectively under an informant-linguist arrangement. Her contributions to this pioneering work are much appreciated and will be long remembered. In fact, she will probably be asked to continue grading tests even after she gets back home. Thank you, Simona, and good luck! Dovidčanj!

* [Notes courtesy of Caroline Houston.]

Critical Languages 1968-69

How would you like to study Hindi-Urdu, Serbo-Croatian, Swahili, Arabic, or some other "exotic" language of India, Eastern Europe, Africa, or Asia? Well, you no longer have to leave home. Instead, you can study them right here at Western under the new Critical Languages Program.

At the present time the Critical Languages Program consists of one "cover" course, two languages (more to follow), two teachers, and a Supervisor (Dwarikesh). The course is Language 500, "Critical Languages," 4 hrs. of credit in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. This title is an "umbrella" under which "neglected" languages can be taught. The two languages and teachers this year are Serbo-Croatian (Fall, Winter -- Palmatier) and Hindi-Urdu (Winter -- Dwarikesh).

These Critical Languages will be offered next semester --- Winter 1969 --- at the following times:

Language 500: Basic Hindi-Urdu Dwarikesh
4 hrs. Tues., Thurs. 7-8:50 p.m.

Language 500: Basic Serbo-Croatian Palmatier
4 hrs. Times to be arranged

You will be able to sign up for these courses during preregistration this month.

Critical Languages 1969-70

A year from now -- Fall Semester 1969 -- we expect to offer Basic Swahili and Basic Classical Arabic. Our Swahili informant will be Mr. Joseph Muthiani from Kenya, a graduate student in Sociology at Western who has taught the language many times for the Peace Corps Program. Our Arabic informant will be Mr. Samir Hama of Syria, a senior (and graduate student by 1970) in Electrical Engineering who has one and one-half years of teaching Arabic to English speakers at the Goethe Institute in Damascus.

Hopefully, you will be able to preregister in Seashell and/or Arabic next April 1 for either Language Department credit or Linguistics Department credit. The double-listing of Critical Languages in the two departments is part of a general overhaul of the program that is now being studied by the various University Curriculum Committees. The proposal also includes a sequence of five courses -- to start in Fall 1969 -- rather than the present single course.

The proposed sequence of courses would look like this -- with the name of the language appearing as a sub-title in the Schedule:

505	Basic Critical Languages (no prerequisite)	4 hrs.
506	Intermediate Critical Languages (prerequisite: 505 or equiv.)	4 hrs.
507	Advanced Critical Languages (prerequisite: 506 or equiv.)	4 hrs.
508	Reading Critical Languages (prerequisite: 505 or equiv.)	4 hrs.
509	Writing Critical Languages (prerequisite: 505 or equiv.)	4 hrs.

Linguistics Courses, Winter 1969

Preregistration begins November 12 for the following Linguistics courses:

110	Introduction to American English (Foreign students, by permission)	10:00-11:50 WF	Hendriksen	4 hrs.
200	Morphologic Analysis	10:00-11:50 MW	Palmatier	4 hrs.
300	Historical Linguistics	1:00- 2:50 TTh	Palmatier	4 hrs.
350	Language Variation	1:00- 2:50 MW	Dwarikesh	4 hrs.
*400	Teaching English as a For. Lang.	10:00-11:50 TTh	Hendriksen	4 hrs.
401	Introduction to Linguistics	2:00- 3:50 TTh	Palmatier	4 hrs.
		P-2		
420	Phonological Analysis	4:00- 5:50 TTh	Dwarikesh	4 hrs.

*A 110 number has been proposed -- but not yet granted -- for this course.

Plusses and Minuses

1. In future numbers of THE INFORMANT we will describe the English as a Foreign Language Program in the Linguistics Department (Hendriksen, Coordinator) and the Major and Minor Programs (Palmatier, Adviser).
2. Students who wish to major or minor in Linguistics should visit the Adviser (Palmatier) in 410 Sprau Tower to discuss their program and get a Departmental Recommendation Form. We already have two declared majors and several undeclared minors.
3. Introduction to Linguistics 500 will be offered in Grand Rapids during the Winter Semester for either graduate or undergraduate credit in Linguistics -- Monday evenings. For further information call the instructor (Dwarikesh, 3-0958) or the Division of Continuing Education (3-1860).
4. The Linguistics Department has expressed interest in the possibility of a minor in Critical Languages, consisting of the five courses listed on page 4 (20 hrs.), with the Reading course based on cultural materials. It is too early to tell how the idea will be received by the other departments, but we'll keep you posted.
5. The Department has had so many requests for a graduate program in Linguistics -- about one per week -- that we (specifically Dwarikesh) have gone ahead and outlined an M.A. degree sequence. It looks very tempting, but we realize that it will be a few years before we can hire the staff to supervise it, so we have not made a formal proposal as yet.
6. The Linguistics Reporter, a newsletter of the Center for Applied Linguistics, carried a one-paragraph announcement of our new department and programs in its October 1968 issue. We have already received correspondence in regard to this announcement. The Western Herald also had an article about us on October 28.
7. The Philosophy Department will offer Philosophy and Language in the Winter Semester, and the Anthropology Department will have Language and Culture. Linguistics majors and minors, take note.

R.A. Palmatier, Editor