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THE

Number 2 -- January 1969

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 Word

The first person to identify the following English mystery word and present it -- correctly spelled -- to our secretary on the fourth floor of Sprau Tower will receive a handsome prize. Good luck!

FSLVʋNSFS

- Hints:
1. The word is a monosyllable.
 2. The word is inflected.
 3. There are as many sounds in the word as there are occurrences of symbols in the transcription above.
 4. The transcription symbols have the following interpretations:
 - F = Fricative
 - S = Stop
 - L = Liquid
 - V = Vowel
 - ʋ = Semivowel
 - N = Nasal
 5. This transcription does not recognize affricates as single sounds.

Note:

The first person to identify the Mystery Word in the first issue of The Informant was Mickey Tesanovich, a sophomore majoring in Linguistics and History. The first persons to claim prizes were Peter Greenquist, an announcer at WMUK and a major in Linguistics, and Mike Holaday, a major in English and Linguistics. Others who claimed prizes were Mrs. Monica Snyder, Language Department Secretary; Dr. Arthur Falk, Associate Professor of Philosophy and instructor of the Philosophy and Language course; Mr. Ted Marvin, Administrative Assistant in the School of General Studies and instructor of the English Language course; and Dr. Arnold Nelson, Professor of English, Associate Chairman of the English Department, and instructor of the English Language course.

As you will recall, that puzzle called for the identification of the following rule for a mystery variety of English:

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

-- where PL is the mystery variety, (C) is any initial consonant or consonant cluster in an English word (parentheses = optional), X is any sounds in an English word beyond the initial consonant or consonant cluster, /e/ is the vowel sound in pay or weigh, and \Rightarrow means to "transform the items at the left into the items at the right -- an English word."

The answer to that puzzle was PIG LATIN:

PIG LATIN + st-op \Rightarrow op-st/e/

PIG LATIN + g-o \Rightarrow o-g/e/

PIG LATIN + -on \Rightarrow on-/e/

Congratulations!

Introducing the Undergraduate Majors in Linguistics

1. Miss Ursula Dissmann

Ursula (nickname Urs, which she hates) was the first student to sign up for a Linguistics major -- way back on September 13. She was apparently attracted to the program because of its promise of hard work (which she loves), as she proved by helping us get unpacked in our new offices in Sprau Tower in August. Though Ursula's parents now live in Spain, she was born in Germany and is now a Canadian citizen studying French (and Serbo-Croatian) in the United States. She is a senior in the General Curriculum (French and Linguistics majors) and expects to stay at Western for her M.A. Ursula is a trailer dweller and a dog owner, among other things. She has also volunteered to work on The Informant.

2. Milan Drago Tesanovich

Milan (nicknamed "Mickey") was the second Linguistics major to visit our offices (October 30). He is another superstudent, as least as far as course load is concerned. Mickey not only has majors in History and Linguistics but he is working on a minor in Military Science. If you wonder why a fellow with a name like Milan Drago Tesanovich isn't taking Basic Serbo-Croatian, stop wondering: he is. Mickey, who is a sophomore, comes from Gary, Indiana, where his ancestors settled from Yugoslavia. He is married, and he and his wife and three children live in Goldsworth Valley. During vacations, Mickey is a truck driver.

3. Caroline Houston

Caroline (no nickname), a sophomore major in Linguistics and Anthropology under the Liberal Arts Curriculum, is really the first of our majors to be affected by the Linguistics program. Way back in January 1968 she enrolled in the Basic Serbo-Croatian course to reinforce her personal acquaintance with Yugoslavia, where she lived for a while. She also has lived in Spain, speaks Spanish and French, and understands a little Tagalog. Her mother, a native speaker of Tagalog (Phillipino), is a librarian at Waldo, and her father, Dr. Charles Houston, is an Associate Professor in the Institute of International and Area Studies. Caroline is a voracious reader.

4. Robert Michael Holaday

Mike (a nickname that most people think is his real name) is a Linguistics and English major in the General Curriculum. A junior transfer from Michigan, he is married and lives in the Elmwood Apartments. Mike's success in solving the first mystery puzzle so fast may be due in part to his participation in Mr. Dwarikesh's Introduction to Linguistics class this semester. His interest in English may be due in part to the fact that his father, Dr. Clayton Holaday, is a Professor in the English Department here. Mike attended the old University High School at Western, so he is quite familiar with the campus. He is a good golfer and an excellent chess player.

5. David Peter Greenquist

Peter (not David, please) is a Linguistics major in the Liberal Arts Curriculum, with a minor in Music History. He is a junior transfer from Antioch College and is better known as the golden voice of WMUK, where he is an announcer. His homemade Christmas cards looked like this:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

(get it?) So far, Peter is the only major in Linguistics who does not also have another major. (That takes courage.) His interests are varied, but they include music and acting.

6. Janet Barazu

Jann (her nickname) is our most recent Linguistics major, and she is distinguished in another way: she is using Linguistics as a "second" major (with English) in a Secondary Education Curriculum. If all goes well with the state certification of our program as a "teachable" one, Jann will become our first teaching major. (If it doesn't, - - - .) Jann's last name may puzzle you, but it's Hungarian, and she does fairly well in that language. Her outside interests lie in literature and cooking.

7. You

If you are interested in becoming a Linguistics major or minor, call or come to the fourth floor of Sprau Tower and make an appointment with the Adviser, Dr. Palmatier.

Teacher Certification for Linguistics

The major and minor programs in Linguistics were approved by the State Board of Education in the spring of 1967. However, for students in a Teacher Education Curriculum (Elementary or Secondary) to be able to select Linguistics as a major or minor, our programs must now be certified as "teachable" in the schools.

The process of obtaining this certification for Linguistics was started on December 3, when Dr. Palmatier appeared before the Teacher Education Committee to defend our application. The application passed this committee with the following conditions:

1. Students in the Elementary Curriculum may select Linguistics as a teachable minor only.
2. Students in the Secondary Curriculum may select Linguistics as a teachable minor or as a "second" teachable major. (That is, a Secondary Curriculum student may select Linguistics as a teachable major only if he has another teachable major.)

The application now goes to the various University curriculum committees and then to the State Board of Education. If all goes well, we will soon be able to offer certified "supporting" programs for education majors in Anthropology, English, French, German, Latin, Russian, Sociology, Spanish, Speech, and Speech Pathology and Audiology. Our contribution will be to strengthen those teachable majors with a scientific background in language study, just as we are now doing for students in the Liberal Arts and General Curricula.

We will notify the various advisers as soon as we have official word.

Graduate Work in Linguistics

Our office receives about one call or letter or visit per week inquiring about graduate work in Linguistics at Western. It is true that most of our courses are already open to graduates for credit, so many people have assumed that we have a graduate program. We do not, and it does not seem likely that we will within the next few years -- certainly not before 1970-71. There is a moratorium on new programs for 1969-70, and the proposal that Mr. Dwarikesh has prepared will have to wait until next year to be submitted.

Nevertheless, things do not look so dreary for graduate work in Linguistics after all. Dr. Owen Middleton, Adviser to the M.A. in Teaching in the Junior College, has informed us that graduate students who have an undergraduate major in an area related to Linguistics -- and who are interested in junior or community college teaching -- will be welcome in this M.A. program. In fact, in addition to the seven hours of required work in Education, they could take as many as twenty-three hours or more in Linguistics -- either entirely in our Department or interdepartmentally. This is as much coursework as most M.A. students in Linguistics have at other universities (besides their thesis); and, fortunately, our 500-level courses were designed originally to suit a graduate program if one should arise.

Mrs. Lalita Muižņiks is our first representative in the M.A. in Junior College Teaching program. She is the wife of Dr. Valdis Muižņiks, a local chiropractor and officer in the Latvian Association. Mrs. Muižņiks has two undergraduate majors from Western in fields related to Linguistics (English and German), and she intends to go on for a Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Michigan. In the meantime, she will be getting the equivalent of a master's degree in Linguistics -- and a preparation for (junior) college teaching as well. We are very excited about this opportunity. If you are interested, call or visit Dr. Owen Middleton in Teacher Education.

The Critical Languages Program

The Linguistics Department was represented at the November 11-12 meeting on campus of the Language Cooperation Committee of the Associated Universities for International Education (AUIE). This committee hopes to coordinate critical language teaching at the eight member institutions of the AUIE Consortium: Ball State, No. Ill., St. Louis U., Ill. State, Ind. State, So. Ill., Loyola of Chicago, and Western. If successful, it will permit the Language and Linguistics departments here to list the critical languages taught at the sister colleges; it will permit students from Western to travel to one of the other institutions during the summer to study a critical language for credit; and it will mean that we may someday entertain Consortium students here during the summer. Such an arrangement would open up many more neglected languages to Western students.

The Linguistics Department has applied for inclusion in the University proposal for audiovisual equipment and materials under a Title VI grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Specifically, we have asked for audio tapes for the Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, and Reading courses in the Critical Languages Program. The languages involved are Serbo-Croatian, Hindi-Urdu, Swahili, Arabic, Hausa, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. These tapes are very expensive, but they are absolutely necessary for any expansion of our offerings. With the State budget as tight as it is this year, a government grant offers the only way out.

A new request form for Critical Languages has been designed by Mr. Dwarikesh and may be secured from him in 411 Sprau Tower -- or call the secretary (3-0958) and she will mail one. The most recent request was for Latvian, which is in demand by many second generation Americans in this and other areas. Unfortunately, no Latvian tapes or records were available in this country for use in our linguist-informant set-up, and we have no native speaker on our staff; so the request could not be honored. We understand, however, that the summer study in Latvian is being arranged again for next summer, so all is not lost.

The new Critical Languages sequence of five courses to replace the present Language 500: Basic Critical Languages has been officially approved and will appear in the new Undergraduate Catalog. The sequence of 4 hr. courses consists of Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Reading, and Writing Critical Languages. These courses will also be double-listed in the Language and Linguistics Departments for credit in either one.

Plusses and Minuses

1. Offerings for the Spring and Summer sessions will be determined by student request. In each of the sessions we can offer two courses: one of the basic courses (Introduction to Linguistics 500 or Linguistic Analysis 200) and one other. Please return the form at the end of this issue to let us know your preference.

2. Mr. Samir Honsi, our Arabic informant for 1969-70, has informed us that he will be off-campus during the Fall Semester 1969 but will return as a graduate student in the Winter Semester 1970. Therefore we will postpone the start of Basic Contemporary Arabic until then. Basic Swahili, however, will start as scheduled in the fall, with Mr. Joseph Muthiani as informant.

3. The title of Linguistics 310 has been officially changed from Language Variation to Dialectology in order to provide a true reflection of the actual content of the course. And because this is our only course which deals with the important contemporary subject of minority group dialects (Afro-American, Spanish-American, French-American, German-American, etc.), we have asked the Graduate School to permit graduate students to take it for graduate credit -- beginning in the Spring Session of 1969. There is no prerequisite.

4. In an effort to make Linguistics courses available to graduates and undergraduates in other fields without expecting them to become majors or minors in our field first, the prerequisites have been removed from all Linguistics courses except 530 Grammatical Analysis, 560 Comparative Linguistics, 570 Studies in Linguistic Structures, and 580 Linguistic Field Techniques -- all of which require only a previous introductory course (200 or 500). "Permission of instructor" has also been removed from Teaching English as a Foreign Language, whose number has been changed from 400 to 510.

5. The second issue of the newsletter from the Institute of International and Area Studies -- The ILAS Report -- featured an informative profile of D.P.S. Dwarikesh, Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Acting Critical Languages Supervisor. Mr. Dwarikesh, who is one of the outstanding teachers and scholars of Indian languages and literatures in this country, is now completing his doctoral work at the University of Chicago.

6. Students interested in psycholinguistics -- language acquisition, perception, interference, etc. -- should be aware of two courses available during the Winter Semester: Speech Pathology 203, Speech and Language Development, 2 hrs., Eglund; and Psychology 597, Topical Seminar: Psycholinguistics, 3 hrs., L. Kent. Along this line, Dr. Louise Kent (Psychology) and Dr. Arthur Falk (Philosophy) are trying to arrange a conference on first language acquisition for the spring, sponsored by the WMU Language and Linguistics Forum (William Buys, Speech, Chairman). Dr. Daniel Hendriksen is the Linguistics Department representative to the Forum.

7. The University of Michigan English Language Institute, in cooperation with the U. of M. Department of Linguistics, is sponsoring a Michigan Conference on Applied Linguistics at Ann Arbor, Saturday, January 18, 1969, Auditorium A, Angell Hall, 8:30 - 4:00. Speakers will include George Lakoff, Kenneth Goodman, E.L. Epstein, Robin Lakoff, and Roger Shuy. There is no registration fee for the conference.

8. Miss Victoria (Vicky) Zych, a junior in Secondary Education with an English major and Linguistics minor, expects to do her participation under a Western alumnus who is pioneering in applied linguistics in the secondary school. He is Mr. David Shaver, an English instructor at Portage Northern High School, who has introduced modern linguistics into the English program at Portage. Portage, by the way, is recognized as a model for linguistics work in western Michigan.

9. Peter Graenquist, the golden glottis of WMUK and a major in Linguistics, interviewed Dr. Palmatier on a tape which was played on Monday, December 9 from 5:45 - 6:00. Unfortunately, time did not permit discussion of such interesting facts as the extinction of Dalmatian, which was the only language to die in the air. Its last native speaker (not of the Dalmatian dialect of Serbo-Croatian, which is a different language) was blown out of a mine in the 18th century. Geronimo!

Spring and Summer Session Course Preference Form

Complete and return to Dr. Robert Palmatier,
Linguistics Dept., 410 Sprau Tower

Course Preference for Spring Session 1969:

Course Preference for Summer Session 1969:

Your Name

Address

Phone

Linguistics Major? _____

Linguistics Minor? _____