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THE INFORMANT

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

We owe our new, bright-red title plate to the Alumni Relations Office: John Lore, Director, and Lillian Sayles, Secretary. Now you may wonder why the Linguistics Department, which is too young to have any graduates yet, deserves such recognition by the Alumni Office. The answer is that Mr. Lore has heard nice things about our newsletter and wants to alert the alumni to our new linguistics programs. So hello out there in graduation land! We hope you like us too.

By way of introduction, the Linguistics Department was established on August 19, 1968 as a combined department-institute to offer an interdepartmental major and minor in general linguistics, to supervise the teaching of critical languages on campus, and to coordinate the English as a foreign language program. Dr. Daniel P. Hendriksen, Associate Professor (as of July 1), is Coordinator of EFL; Mr. D.P.S. Dwarikesh, Assistant Professor, is Acting Supervisor of Critical Languages; Dr. Robert A. Palmatier, Professor and Chairman, is advisor to the undergraduates and graduate students (majoring in Linguistics under the M.A. in Teaching in the Community College); and Mrs. Elaine Moyer is the Department secretary.

Linguistics is the scientific study of language--its nature and development, its universal properties, its diversified structures and their dialectal variants, its acquisition by children and non-native speakers, its systems of writing and transcription, its cultural role in the speech community, and its application to other areas of human knowledge. The linguistics major and minor are intended as supporting programs for majors in other departments, such as Anthropology, English, Philosophy, Psychology, Speech, Speech Pathology, and the foreign languages. We do, however, have "first" majors in linguistics, and there are three linguistics students in the Community College M.A.

Our offices are on the fourth floor of Sprau Tower. Please pay us a visit.

Mystery Language

The first person to identify the language of the following passage--and to translate it into standard written English--will be recognized in the next issue of The Informant:

Bătrânețe haine grele

Bătrânețe haine grele,
Ce n'aș da să scap de ele.
Trec zilele trec și eu,
Imbătrânesc și-mi pare rău.

Așa trec zilele mele,
Una bună, zece rele.
Trec zilele, trec și eu,
După viață-mi pare rău.

Mystery Dialect

No one has yet identified and written a 100-word composition or dialogue in the mystery dialect of English from the March issue of The Informant. So the competition is still open. We hinted that the dialect was in constant use in the city of Kalamazoo--both in speech and writing--and that it could be heard in certain American movies and on certain American television programs. Now we'll give you some more hints:

1. Every native English speaker has used this dialect at one time in his life.
2. Every English newspaper in America uses this dialect in every one of its issues.
3. In the American movies and television programs that employ this dialect, it is not spoken by characters named Jane, and it is not used by masked men.

Does that help?

Linguistics Major Named Community Ambassador [and some notes on multilingualism]

Miss Caroline Houston, a junior Linguistics major, was recently selected as one of two Community Ambassadors from Kalamazoo for the summer of 1969. She will live with a host family in Argentina for two months.

Caroline, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Houston of Western, is one of the most polyglottal of the majors in our department. Born in the Philippines, she still understands a little Tagalog (Philippino), the language of her mother. As a result of her residence and study in Spain from 1963 to 1965, she speaks Spanish fluently (and introduced herself to Mexican Spanish when she worked with migrant children at Lawton last summer). She studied French at O'Brien High School in Kalamazoo and speaks it fluently and beautifully. While her family was in Yugoslavia during the summer of 1967, she picked up Serbo-Croatian well enough to

perform with a musical group--and formalized that study at Western in the winter semester of 1968 as a student in Basic Serbo-Croatian. Along with English, that makes Caroline at least a tetraglot. (Bite your tongues, you mono's!)

It is interesting how multilingual speakers seem to be attracted to linguistics (or is it the other way around?). Another of our majors, Miss Ursula Dissman, is trilingual, going on quadrilingual. She is a native speaker of German, by origin, and controls several different German dialects. Her other major at Western is French. She has studied Serbo-Croatian here and intends to teach that language. Her English, of only six years, is impeccable, though slightly Canadian by citizenship: "The budgie is on the chesterfield." (What language does she use to communicate with her parents in Spain?) Our first graduate student in linguistics (in the Community College curriculum), Mrs. Lalita Muižnieks, is at least bilingual--in Latvian and English--but she is semi-lingual in German. Lalita will be assisting in the Latvian program here again this summer and expects to teach Latvian and linguistics in the future. And Rosa Flores is bilingual in Spanish and English, Helen Kennedy and Keiko Okuda in Japanese and English, and Mary Gernant in French and English.

The faculty and staff, not to be outdone by all these glots on our record, wish to catalog our own lingualisms. The Chairman is the least versatile of all: he was once conversant in French, but that seems to be slipping; his two and one-half years of German are all but gone; his three years of Latin, one year each of Sanskrit and Old English, and one semester each of Gothic, Old Saxon, Old Icelandic, and Middle High German have suffered from lack of native speakers; and his brief acquaintances with Italian, Korean, and Serbo-Croatian are nothing to brag about. (Nevertheless, he is foolhardy enough to be supervising Basic Korean and Basic Swahili in the fall.) Dr. Daniel Hendriksen has studied (but forgotten) Dutch, German, and French, and has been exposed to Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Spanish, and many other languages through his teaching of English as a foreign language here and at the University of Michigan. Our secretary, Mrs. Elaine Moyer, is trilingual in Romanian, French, and English (though her three-year association with the linguistics program has exposed her to many more), and she also types in German, Spanish, Latin, and Italian.

The most versatile member of the faculty is D.P.S. Dwarikesh, from Agra, India. His native language is Hindi, which is written in the devanagari script, but he also speaks or reads all other North Indian languages, including Urdu, which is written in the Arabic script. In addition, he reads and understands many Dravidian languages of South India, including Telugu, as well as the unrelated Munda. As a scholar of Indic languages and literatures, Dwarikesh also reads (and recites) Sanskrit (Vedic and classical), Pali, and the Prakrits. Outside of the Indian group, he has studied Latin, Greek, Arabic, Russian, French, German, and some African languages. His language learning ability can be characterized by the following (true?) anecdote: While preparing for his graduate foreign language examinations at Chicago, someone dared him to try the Russian exam that was coming up in about six weeks. Dwarikesh burned the midnight oil, teaching himself Russian and the Cyrillic alphabet; but he fell short on that first try. So he went at it again for another twelve weeks and passed the examination with honors on the second time around. "Linguistics majors: match that!"

Pluses and Minuses

1. On May 27, 1969, Mrs. Sharda Dwarikesh, wife of our own D.P.S. ("Dwar") Dwarikesh, gave birth to a 5 1/2 pound baby girl in Bronson Hospital. Mother and baby--to be named Nira--and sister ("Kitty") are fine, and father Dwar is merrily passing out "It's a girl" cigars. (Drop up to the office for yours.) Congratulations!
2. When you get a chance, stop in and admire the art work that is hanging above Mr. Dwarikesh's desk in 411 Sprau Tower. It looks like (and is) a painting, but the subject is a little unusual. The artist, Mr. Thomas Culver, a student in Dwarikesh's Hindi-Urdu class, has reproduced the first fourteen sutras of Pāṇini's Sanskrit Grammar (publication date around 400 B.C.) in black on gray with a white border. (The Chairman is checking out any copyright violations.)
3. Western's Campus Bookstore has established a new section for linguistics books. It's on the right-hand side about half way back, under the sign "English--Linguistics." The lower shelves in the section will contain textbooks for Linguistics and Critical Languages classes, while the upper shelves will be a "browsing" section with books of general interest and odds and ends. Stop in, take a look, and buy something.
4. One of the texts on the browsing shelves of the new Linguistics section of the bookstore is a Serbo-Croatian Dictionary that was ordered last fall. (It takes about six months to get anything from Yugoslavia.) This is the Standardni Rečnik (English-Serbo-Croatian/Serbo-Croatian-English) by Branislav Grujić. A hardbound book of 620 pages (including a cute grammar of English in Serbo-Croatian), it sells for the ridiculously low price of two dollars. (American publishers: take note!)
5. The results of the challenge bowling tournament between the Linguistics faculty-staff and the students on March 22 were encouraging. Instead of losing both games--as they did on February 15--the establishment won the first game, behind high man Jack Moyer (our secretary's husband), who had a 207. High for the students was another husband, Kurt Hopkins (Vicky's), with a 151. The other student bowlers were Susan Holaday (for brother Mike), Gary King, Caroline Houston, Vicky Hopkins, and Captain Ursula Dissmann. Their opponents were Elaine Moyer, Denise Palmatier (daughter of), Dan Hendriksen, Dwar Dwarikesh, and you-know-who.
6. The Educational Resources Center Library in Sangren Hall has a complete collection of all of the materials on microfilm in the ERIC files (ERIC is an acronym for the Educational Resources Information Center). Many of these materials are on linguistic subjects, as catalogued by the ERIC Clearinghouse for Linguistics (one of the twelve such) at the Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C. The Clearinghouse publishes a bimonthly Bulletin listing the new documents that are being filed, and this (as well as a general index) is in the Sangren library. Want to go fishing with ERIC?
7. Dr. Daniel Hendriksen has been promoted to Associate Professor of Linguistics, effective July 1, 1969. Shortly after he assumes his new rank he will serve for the third time as Visiting Professor in the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Latin American Orientation Program at Kalamazoo College during the month of August. Each

year the Kellogg Foundation brings twenty-plus doctors, dentists, nurses, and agriculturalists to "K" to study American English Language and Culture for four weeks before they move on to various U.S. universities for post-graduate work.

8. The Linguistics Department may be small (it is: three), but it gets its share of publications. In March, R. Palmatier's long-awaited (by R. Palmatier) book, A Descriptive Syntax of the 'Ormulum', was published by Mouton and Co. of the Hague, The Netherlands. Having been told this, most people ask what in Hague the 'Ormulum' is, while others want to know why the book had to be published outside of the country. The answer to the second question is that it didn't, but Mouton is the largest linguistics publisher in the world. For the answer to the first question, buy the book--soon to be in the bookstore for \$10 per. (Outrageous.)

9. In May, Mr. Dwarikesh received a copy of the Indian Journal, Sahitya Paricay, and discovered that an article of his had been published several months before. The title of the article was "The Language Problem in India Is Still Far from Solution" (Samasyā-kā Hal Abhī Dūr Hai). Mr. Dwarikesh believes that the eventual solution to the problem will be the acceptance of Hindi as a link-language for India as a whole. The article was included in the special January 1969 issue on "The Language Problem in India." Oddly enough, Dwarikesh saw a review of this issue before he saw the issue itself.

10. Mr. Joseph Muthiani, a graduate student in Sociology and a part-time instructor in the Department of Linguistics for 1969-70, has been appointed Coordinator of the Swahili Language Instruction of the Peace Corps Training Program this summer from June 15 to August 22 at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. This will be his seventh Peace Corps Training Program. At Western next year, Mr. Muthiani will teach Basic Swahili in the Fall and Intermediate Swahili in the winter.

11. You may have heard that both the Yugoslav Seminar and the Indian Seminar for 1969 were cancelled for lack of federal support. Well, that isn't stopping five of the students in last semester's Basic Serbo-Croatian, who will be graduates as of this summer. Pat Nichols, Liga Abolins, Mary Anne Poggenburg, Pete Hooker, and Eileen Ryan have been awarded graduate research fellowships in Yugoslavia for the entire academic year 1969-70. The grants include round-trip travel, tuition, fees, and a \$1200 stipend. Sretan put!

12. We hope you didn't miss the April (No. 4) and May (No. 5) 1969 issues of Ariel, the newsletter of the Western Michigan University libraries. In the April issue was a 'bookworm's conundrum': "Two bound volumes of a book, each 500 pages long and having neither flyleaves, endpapers, or prefatory matter, are shelved in natural order. A bookworm gnaws straight through from the title page of volume one to page 500 of volume two. How many pages does he gnaw through?" In the May issue, ye olde editore outsmarted Ariel by giving him the answer he expected ("zero pages") and furnishing another answer that he didn't expect (which see--drawings by Elaine Moyer). It's a wise bookworm that gnaws his own sum.

13. Mrs. Lalita Muižnieks, our first M.A. student in linguistics (in the Teaching in the Community College curriculum), will assist in the Latvian composition and literature courses which will be offered at Western this summer through the Division of Continuing Education. The Visiting Professor for the Latvian program will be Dr. Jāzeps Lelis, Associate Professor of English at Howard University,

Washington, D.C. Information about these courses can be obtained from Mrs. Muižnieks.

14. The Critical Languages offerings for next year are as follows:

Fall Semester 1969:

- *Intermediate Hindi-Urdu (Dwarikesh)
- Basic Sanskrit (Dwarikesh)
- Basic Swahili (Palmatier-Muthiani)
- Basic Korean (Palmatier-Kim)

Winter Semester 1970:

- Advanced Hindi-Urdu (Dwarikesh)
(or Basic Hindi-Urdu)
- Intermediate Sanskrit (Dwarikesh)
- Intermediate Swahili (Palmatier-Muthiani)
- Intermediate Korean (Palmatier-Kim)
(or Basic Japanese)
- Basic Arabic (?) (Palmatier-Homsi)

*Misprinted in all but the latest schedule as Basic Hindi-Urdu.

Robert A. Palmatier
Editor