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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.

Mystery Word

Let's play *HOMEOGNOMY! In this word game THE INFORMANT picks a five-letter English word that has no S inflection and is not solely a proper name. Your job is to guess what it is. Ready? Well, not quite. THE INFORMANT will help you out by supplying your guesses for you, and by indicating, for each one, how many letters it has in common with the mystery word (not which letters or which position, just how many). You will wind up with an anagram, which you must then rearrange as an English word. Ready? Here we go.

<u>Wrong Word</u> <u>(Your Guesses)</u>	<u>No. of Letters in Common</u> <u>with Mystery Word</u>
BALKY	1
BLOCK	1
BLUSH	1
DROVE	1
FRUMP	2
GAZED	0
JUNKY	0
LIGHT	3
MIXED	1
MOVED	0
PRONG	1
SHUCK	0
SIXTY	2
SKIRL	3
SWAMP	0
SWING	1
TACKY	1
THUMP	1

When you have an answer, call the secretary of the Linguistics Department, Mrs. Jacklyn Vani, at 383-0064. The first person to call in with the correct answer will get his name in next fall's INFORMANT. (Whee.) If you need some more help and don't care about receiving any publicity, phone in some guess words of your own, and we'll tell you how many letters they have in common with the mystery word.

* Courtesy of JOSS.

Exeter Riddle No. 47

The mystery riddle in the October 1970 issue of THE INFORMANT was so tough that nobody could solve it (or "parse the test"). Fortunately, however, the Old English Structure course got underway without this prerequisite, and soon the campus will be swarming with Anglo-Saxon bookworms. That's the answer, by the way: "bookworm." It seems that a "moððe" can be the surface structure of a bookworm (or a bookworm can be the deep structure of a moth, depending on how you look at it).

Here is the riddle one more time, with a Modern English translation and with alliterating sounds capitalized:

"A moth (i.e. a bookworm) ate some words. It seemed to me a curious thing, when I witnessed that wonder, that the worm had devoured the song of a man--a thief (i.e. the bookworm) in the darkness--a mighty saying, and its strong foundation (i.e. the parchment). (Yet) the thieving guest was not a whit the wiser because he ate those words."

Moððe word fræt; Mē ðæt ðūhte
Wrætlicu Wyrð, ðā ic ðæt Wundor gefrægn,
ðæt se Wyrð forswealg Wera gied sumes,
ðeof in ðýstro ðrymfæstne cwide
and ðæs Strangan Staðol. Stælgieſt ne wæs
Wihte ðý glēawra ðē hē ðām Wordum swealg.

[Too bad it wasn't a firefly--then we might have had an illuminated manuscript.]

Fall Commencement 1970

The Linguistics Department graduated two majors and two minors at the Fall Semester Commencement, December 19, 1970. The minors were Janet Baraszu from Lincoln Park, an English major in the Secondary Education curriculum, and Catherine Licavoli from Detroit, an English major in the General curriculum. The majors were Rosa Flores from Honduras, a minor in Library Science in the Librarianship curriculum, and Mickey Tesanovich from Gary, Indiana, a double major in History in the General curriculum. Our Swahili teacher, Joseph Muthiani from Kenya, also received a Master's degree in Sociology; and a former contributor to THE INFORMANT Hartmut Guenther from Germany, received his M.A. in Psychology. Congratulations to all of them!

Rosa Flores continued the Linguistics Department's string of honors graduates--dating back to 1969--by finishing cum laude last December. Rosa did well in the photographic department last fall also, getting her picture in the Herald on November 2 and in the Gazette on December 20. Unfortunately, the identification was not as good as the coverage. Below her Herald picture, with Silvia Canadas and the President of the University, the caption read only "President Miller Welcomes Students To the Tea," without giving their names. And below the Gazette photo, captioned "Foreign Students Receive Graduation Honors," Rosa appeared with Leen Turunen of Helsinki, Finland, but her name was given as "Rose [sic] Camayaguella [sic], Honduras." (Camayaguella is her hometown, not her family name.) Don't worry, Rosita, we know who you are!

Mickey Tesanovich got his share of publicity, too, but he didn't suffer so much from improper identification. His picture appeared on November 11 in the Herald for the Annual Aviation Ceremony of the Department of Military Science. Mickey was shown being congratulated by Major Firestone for having earned his flight wings, but his last name was spelled "Tesanouich." His picture also appeared in a December 19 article in the Gazette over the correct name Milan Tesanovich and with the caption "Top ROTC Grad at WM," but in the first

paragraph his last name was spelled "Tesanovick." This by-lined article (by Blaine Lam) was so complimentary to one of our graduates that we have reproduced it below:

PRIDE OF ROTC WMU's Outstanding Cadet Honored

Like a football team with a star halfback, Western Michigan University's 11 commissioned ROTC officers paid tribute to Milan Tesanovich [sic] Friday in Oakland Gymnasium.

The 23-year-old ROTC cadet turned 2nd Lieutenant, informal and formal leader of reserve officers who studied military science with him during his four years at Western, received the WMU President's trophy for outstanding cadet.

At the ceremonies, where all the cadets received their commissions, Tesanovich not only stood out as the best, but as a shining example of what the Army wants in an officer.

The "brass" in WMU's Reserve Officer Training Corps says so. Col. Charles L. Phillips, professor of military science, who presided at the ceremonies said, "He's remarkable."

Tesanovich, who came to Western from Merrillville, Ind., with two scholarships, one of them a ROTC scholarship, has been on the dean's list the past three years, won the American Legion Proficiency Award, and was voted to "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities."

He has won other ROTC honors and his commissioning class presented him with a sword as a gift Friday.

With the scholarships and summer jobs, he has supported a wife and four children.

A linguistics major, Tesanovich will be the first Western ROTC grad to apply for the Army's Judge Advocate Corps, which would mean study in law. ROTC officers think he will be accepted.

As a scholarship student, Tesanovich has a four-year obligation to serve with the Army. He is considering making it a career.

"Some people still feel they have a moral obligation to the defense of our country," Tesanovich said. "And I'm one of them."

Department Handbook

For the past two years the Linguistics staff has been preparing a Handbook, a sort of constitution of the policies that govern the operation of the Department. The Handbook was finally approved in its rough form at the February 12 staff meeting, and dittoed copies of the polished manuscript were given out at the March 25 meeting. It turned out to be 49 pages long, with three major sections ("Organization of the Department", "Policies Concerning the Faculty", "Policies Concerning the Programs") and three appendices ("The English as a Foreign Language Program", "The Critical Languages Policy", and "Linguistics Department Faculty").

Most of the Handbook is pretty dull, of course, but here and there we managed to sneak in a couple of surprises. For example, the section on "The Chairman of the Department" provides for an elected Chairman with a definite term of office (three years). Up to this time the Department has had an

appointed 'chairman' with an indefinite term, which is a contradiction in "terms" (i.e. 'appointed' + 'indefinite'='head', not 'chairman'). The present Chairman has already appointed an Elections Committee, chaired by Dr. Dwarikesh, to ask the Dean to conduct the election. (He likes to live dangerously.)

Another, even greater, surprise is hidden in the section on "The Department Committee." In the past, this committee has consisted only of the full-time members of the Department, but the Handbook also provides for representatives from the undergraduate majors and the part-time faculty. Accordingly, nominations were held in February and elections were held in March for one representative from each of these unfranchised majorities. Both the majors and the minors voted for the major representative, but only the part-time faculty voted for their representative.

The results of the elections were not too surprising. Miss Caroline Houston, who is the earliest active major on our records, was elected Undergraduate Major Representative, and Mr. Joseph Muthiani, our earliest active part-time instructor, was elected Part-Time Instructor Representative. Caroline and Joe celebrated their first Committee meeting (on March 25) by changing the name of the organization to the "Executive Committee of the Department of Linguistics" (with a little help from their fellow members). This could be a sign of what's to come.

There aren't enough copies of the Handbook for all of the majors and minors to have one, but you are perfectly welcome to come up to 410 Sprau and borrow one for awhile. This might be an especially good idea for those of you who are interested in serving as a student representative next year, since the present representative's term ends on October 1, 1971. We are planning a major-minor meeting in early September to get everyone acquainted with each other, followed by nominations and elections in late September. In the meantime, if you want to contact Caroline, her number is 381-4509.

Critical Language Minor

The twenty credit-hour, non-teaching minor in a critical language was originally approved for Fall 1970, but because of the financial crisis in the State of Michigan (and our consequent inability to provide advanced course work in 1971-72) it was closed up until 1971. Now, however, it is possible for a student to sign up for his minor at any time, to start his work this summer or fall, and to complete his courses within two years.

Any of the eight critical languages offered at the basic stage in 1971 are eligible. They include the following: Latvian, Arabic, Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese, Hindi-Urdu, Japanese, Serbo-Croatian, and Swahili. Students who wish to enter the program must make an appointment with Dr. D.P.S. Dwarikesh, Critical Languages Supervisor, Department of Linguistics, 412 Sprau Tower, phone 383-0958.

Fluent and literate users of the language of interest are not eligible, but partially fluent speakers may enroll and 'comp out' of as many of the conversation classes (505, 506, 507) as they can handle. The only catch is that they must still enroll in the courses, pay full tuition, undergo formal examination, and accept whatever grade they receive. Nevertheless, it's a good idea for people who want recognition for their competency.

On the following page is a suggested sequence for the Critical Language Minor (with prerequisites in parentheses).

Fall Semester

Ling. 200	Linguistic Analysis	4 hrs.
Ling. 505	Basic Critical Language	4 hrs.

Winter Semester

Ling. 506	Intermediate Critical Language (505)	4 hrs.
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Fall Semester

Ling. 507	Advanced Critical Language (506)	4 hrs.
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Winter Semester

Ling. 508	Reading Critical Language (505)	} 4 hrs.
OR: Ling. 509	Writing Critical Language (505)	

TOTAL: 20 hrs.

The annual publication Facts emphasized the critical language aspect of the Linguistics Department in its June 1970 issue, page 18.

The establishment of the new Linguistics Department has made it possible for Western to offer training in a number of 'critical' ('neglected', 'uncommonly-taught', 'exotic', 'esoteric') languages. Employing the linguist-informant method of instruction . . . , the Linguistics Department is teaching Serbo-Croatian, Hindi-Urdu, Swahili, Korean, Sanskrit, and Arabic. Each language can be studied for five semesters in the Basic, Intermediate, Advanced, Reading, and Writing Courses.

It must be the 'exotic' nature of critical languages that accounts for the fact that we are usually thought of as a 'language' department. Actually, the critical language program was not even mentioned in the first Undergraduate Catalog to describe our Department (1968-1969). The program has developed only within the last two years, but it has already overtaken English as a Foreign Language and General Linguistics in the eyes of the public. In fact, it is sometimes easier for us to characterize our activities to a layman by saying that we teach "Japanese and that sort of thing" than to explain what it means to "do linguistics." (But only sometimes, since you'd be surprised how many people come back with a reply in Japanese--at least we guess it's Japanese.)

The Latvian Summer Program

The Division of Continuing Education announces the fourth Latvian Language Program for the summer of 1971. This program offers four intensive courses in Latvian under critical language credit from the Department of Linguistics. They are: Basic Latvian (505), Intermediate Latvian (506), Advanced Latvian (507), and Reading Latvian (508)--each carrying 4 hours of credit. The program was planned by Dr. and Mrs. Valdis Muiznieks of Kalamazoo, in cooperation with Dr. Joseph Lelis of Howard University, Dr. Fred Bailey of Continuing Education, and Dr. D.P.S. Dwarikesh of Linguistics.

The Latvian Summer Program began in 1966 with two courses ('intermediate', 'advanced'), one instructor, and no credit. The second program was held in the summer of 1968, with courses in Latvian Composition and Latvian Literature, a new instructor (Dr. Joseph Lelis, assisted by Mrs. Lalita Muiznieks), and still

no credit. For the first time, in the summer of 1970, Linguistics credit was offered, the number of courses was raised from two to three (506, 508, 509), and two regular instructors were employed (Dr. Lelis and Mrs. Muiznieks).

The growth in the Latvian Summer Program has been remarkable, not just for the increase in staff and courses but for the tripling of the enrollment over the years--from twenty odd in 1966 to over eighty in 1971. Furthermore, the enrollment should remain high for 1972 also, since two new features have been added to the program. One is the offering of Basic Latvian for the first time, a move which should encourage persons without Latvian family background to enroll. Another is the new Critical Language Minor in Latvian.

The Latvian Minor has the distinction of being the first Critical Language Minor to be opened up to undergraduates in non-teaching curricula. This action was possible because the Latvian Program has become an established offering, with a stable staff, and can guarantee advanced courses every summer. The first minor is Miss Anda Liberis, a transfer student from York University in Toronto, Ontario, who completed 508 and 509 in 1970 and will take 507 and 'comp out' of 505 and 506 in 1971.

Here is a suggested sequence for future Latvian minors:

First Summer

Ling. 500	Introduction to Linguistics	4 hrs.
Ling. 505	Basic Latvian	4 hrs.

Second Summer

Ling. 506	Intermediate Latvian (505)*	4 hrs.
Ling. 508	Reading Latvian (505)*	4 hrs.

Third Summer

Ling. 507	Advanced Latvian (506)*	4 hrs.
Ling. 509	Writing Latvian (505)*	optional
TOTAL:		20 hrs.

* = Prerequisite

For further information, see the Critical Languages Supervisor, Dr. Dwarikesh, 412 Sprau Tower, phone 383-0958.

Pluses and Minuses

1. We wish to welcome the two new Linguistics majors and the sixteen new Linguistics minors who have signed up since last October. The majors are Anda Liberis, a sophomore in the General Curriculum and our first Critical Language minor (in Latvian), and Jean Waybrant, a sophomore in the Liberal Arts Curriculum and a minor in Philosophy. The minors are Jollie Allen (Lib. Arts--German major), Lauren Beyer (Gen. Curr.--English major), Linda Czuhajewski (Sec. Ed.--English major), Gayla Edwards (Sec. Ed.--Comm. Arts major), James Ek (Sec. Ed.--German major), Ruth Frisbie (Sec. Ed.--Spanish major), Howard Goldsmith (Speech Path. Curr.--Speech Path. major), Katherine Misiak (Elem. Ed.--Anthropology major), Joan Morningstar (Sec. Ed.--Spanish major), Christine Pabreza (Sec. Ed.--English major), Richard Sardelli (Sec. Ed.--English major), Deborah Schuman (Sec. Ed.--Latin major), Robert Sterken (Elem. Ed.--Anthropology major), Mary Veele (Elem. Ed.--Health Ed. major), Anne Ware (Sec. Ed.--English major), and Sara Wright (Gen. Curr.--Anthropology major).

2. Dr. Hendriksen is a member of an interdisciplinary team which has been appointed by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to develop a Language Arts Minor. This Committee is charged with outlining a program for elementary teaching-assistants in the inner city schools of Grand Rapids who are participating in the Career Opportunities Program (COP). At the same time, the committee is interested in a long-range Language Arts Minor which would be available to both elementary and secondary teachers at Western. One of the major problems will be to decide which agency of the University should administer the minor: the Linguistics Department, the English Department, the Communication Arts and Sciences Department, or the Teacher Education Department. We have volunteered the services of the Linguistics Department for this supervision, and have outlined a tentative program; but so far no decision has been reached.

3. Mrs. Jacklyn Vani is the new Linguistics Department secretary, having replaced Mrs. May Belle Harn (now at Upjohn's) on February 22. Jackie is the wife of Thomas Vani, an undergraduate junior in Petroleum Distribution. They met in the Bahamas, where Tom (from Chicago) was vacationing and Jackie (from Washington, D.C.) was enjoying a free trip from Pan American Airlines, her employer. For their honeymoon, the Vani's took advantage of a free trip to Hawaii which Jackie had won a year earlier but hadn't used. This was Jackie's second trip to Hawaii, so obviously she likes to travel to warm places, for example, to Florida, where her parents now live. Jackie brings with her some excellent credentials, including a B.A. in Economics from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. In their spare time--when she's not typing THE INFORMANT--she and Tom like to bowl and watch hockey games. Welcome, Jackie!

4. A new Linguistics course, 550-Studies in Linguistics and Related Disciplines, will be offered for the first time next fall. Since this is a "studies" course, it can be offered under different subtitles in the same or different semesters and may be taken more than once for credit. The fall section is subtitled "Psycholinguistics," and its description reads as follows: "A study of linguistic systems as these connect language and thought and relate competence to performance in the acquisition, production, and perception of language." Dr. Hendriksen is the instructor for the course, which will offer 3 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit and will meet once a week (Wednesday night) from 6:30 p.m. to 9:10 p.m. in 1108 Brown. In the winter of 1972, Dr. Dwarikesh will teach a section of "Sociolinguistics" under this title, and Mr. Earl Herrick of the English Department will teach "Computational Linguistics." The latter, by the way, requires a computer language (such as Fortran IV) as a prerequisite.

5. If you were surprised at the new numbering of our undergraduate courses in the Fall Schedule, we sympathize with you. The reason for it is to establish a 'natural' sequence of basic courses from Linguistic Analysis 200 through the twenty hours required for a minor (as his total) and for a major (as his minimum in the Linguistics Department). Now, with this twenty-hour sequence, a major or minor can take his Linguistics Department credits entirely in undergraduate courses--if he wants to. Substitution will still be permitted at the 500-level and in other certain departments, of course. Here is a summary of the changes:

<u>Old Course No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>New Course No.</u>
Ling. 520	Phonological Analysis	Ling. 320
Ling. 530	Grammatical Analysis	Ling. 330
Ling. 300	Historical Linguistics	Ling. 420
Ling. 310	Dialectology	Ling. 430