

2006 Annual Meeting

The 80th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, 5-8 January 2006. The American Dialect Society, American Name Society, North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences, Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, and the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas met in conjunction with the LSA. There were over 1,000 registered participants.

LSA President Mark Aronoff officially opened the meeting at 7:15 PM on 5 January immediately preceding the first plenary address.

The Annual Business Meeting was held 6 January and attended by approximately 75 members. The President called the meeting to order and recognized the presence of a number of past presidents. The Secretary-Treasurer reported highlights of actions taken by the Executive Committee on 5 January. At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Society members present elected Zarina Estrada Fernandez (U Sonora) and S. J. Chang (Seoul Ntl U) to honorary membership. The Committee noted that the two represent diverse and important contributions to linguistics in opposite hemispheres of the world both in terms of their areas of research and terms of their affiliations. In addition, they are outstanding scholars richly deserving honorary membership in our Society. The citations presented read:

Zarina Estrada-Fernandez, U Sonora, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. Dr. Estrada-Fernandez first earned a degree in Languages and Spanish Literature, with a specialization in Hispanic Linguistics. She has since broadened her interests to the study of indigenous languages. In 1980, she attended the LSA Linguistic Institute in Albuquerque, NM, where she met a group of linguists with whom she has not lost contact, and who have also played an important role in the development of linguistic research in Sonora, Mexico. These linguists are Jane H. Hill, Wick R. Miller, Ken L. Hale, Karen Dakin, Talmy Givon, Joan Bybee, and Rodolfo Cerrón Palomino, as well as Susan Steele, who became the director of Estrada-Fernandez' dissertation.

Her more recent research has been focused on the morphosyntactic aspects of Pima Bajo, an endangered language spoken in the central mountain region between Sonora and Chihuahua, México. In addition to this, she works on the Yaqui language, spoken in Sonora and Arizona. She worked with Yaqui speakers and graduate students to produce and publish a dictionary of this language.

Zarina Estrada-Fernandez was the primary founder of the program for the Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics at the Universidad de Sonora, a program which began in November 1978. At that time, the program was the first college program in linguistics in Mexico. Twenty years later, she once again played a major role in the development of the MA program in linguistics at the same university. Her own research interests in Mexican and Latin American indigenous languages have strongly influenced the emphasis of this program. In November 2003, Estrada-Fernandez created (and continues to coordinate) the Seminar on Voice, Valence and Word Formation, held annually in Hermosillo.

S. J. Chang (Seoul Ntl U, South Korea). Shortly after S. J. Chang returned to Korea after obtaining his PhD in linguistics from U IL-Urbana-Champaign, he and his colleagues organized and founded the Linguistic Society of Korea, of which he became the first President (1975-78). Currently, it is a thriving, very active academic society in Korea. Chang also served as Director of the Language Research Institute of Seoul National University (1976-80), which he made into a world-class research and educational institution. Its publication, *Language Research*, is more than 25 years old and is widely circulated among the world's leading institutions of linguistic research including UIUC.

Dr. Chang was a visiting scholar at Harvard University (1980-81), a visiting professor at CSLI, Stanford University (1989-90), and was invited to teach in the Linguistic Institute at UIUC in summer 1999. He has been a member of the LSA for over 40 years since 1963, and he was elected a member of National Academy of Sciences of Korea in 1998. He has written or edited 18 books/monographs and nearly 50 articles, as shown in his CV, many after his retirement in 1994 from Seoul National University, where he taught from 1958. Mr. Chang was born in 1929, making him 76 this year. He has been Professor Emeritus of Seoul National University since 1994.

Other reports were presented by the Chair of the Program Committee, the Editor of *Language*, the Coordinator of the 2006 Summer Meeting Local Planning Committee, and the Director of the 2007 Linguistic Institute.

Mark Aronoff, LSA President, presented the 8th Leonard Bloomfield Book Award to R. M. W. Dixon, Director of the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe U, Bundoora, VIC, Australia, for his book, *The Jarawara Language of Southern Amazonia* (Oxford University Press). John Davey of Oxford University Press accepted the award. The citation read:

R. M. W. Dixon's *The Jarawara Language of Southern Amazonia*, written with the assistance of Alan R. Vogel, is an invaluable record of a language in serious danger of extinction. The complexities of the language are unraveled with a clarity and insight that allow the reader to share in what the author describes as 'the intellectual pleasure of working out such a magnificent system'.

The LSA President presented the 2nd Kenneth L. Hale Award to Robert W. Young for his work with Willie Morgan and Sally Midgette on the Navajo language. First presented in 2002, the award recognizes outstanding linguistic scholarship that documents a particular endangered or no longer spoken language or language family. The citation read:

The standard reference for the Navajo language is Young and Morgan, an opus of several volumes of dictionaries and grammars compiled over the past six decades by Bob Young working with Willie Morgan: *The Navajo language* (1980, 1987) and the supplementary volume, *The analytic lexicon of Navajo* (with Sally Midgette, 1992). These volumes make Navajo the best documented indigenous language on this continent, perhaps in the world, and they arguably stand among the finest ever written on any language. The volumes are comparable in scope, for instance, to works like the *OED* (if the *OED* also contained a grammar). The first Young and Morgan dictionary was published in 1943; 63 years later Bob Young is still working with young Navajo scholars.

The Navajo language is remarkable for its structure and the robustness of its documentation. It comprises two key parts, a grammar with appendices and a dictionary, interrelated by an ingenious system of cross-referencing. Because Navajo is a polysynthetic language with a rich verbal morphology, a fully inflected word is a complex entity. In accordance with the wishes of native speakers, the dictionary entries are full inflected forms; each word is capable of being inflected in a number of different ways determined by use and by principles that are not entirely understood. Their system links the dictionary entries to the conjugations and paradigm patterns that that particular word may appear in, thus reflecting a native speaker's knowledge and providing a map of morpheme distribution and co-occurrence restrictions. The dictionary thus stands as an implemented model of a polysynthetic lexicon, while at the same time providing robust documentation of the language. In addition to this, each and every entry contains etymology of a given word, as well as documentation of the Navajo language as it was spoken in the mid-twentieth century.

The work of documenting an unusual language type is a task of considerable proportion, in terms of the scope of coverage necessary as well as the intellect and dedication that this task requires. Over the last six decades, Bob Young has produced a resource for Navajo speakers, a model for the sister Athabaskan languages, and for linguists, that is likely to stand the test of time.

Margaret W. Reynolds, Executive Director of LSA, received the 6th Victoria A. Fromkin Prize for Distinguished Service. The prize was established in 2000 to recognize extraordinary service to the Society and the discipline.

The Resolutions Committee, (Garland Bills, chair; Diane Lillo-Martin and Dennis Preston) presented the following resolutions which were unanimously approved:

Resolution 1. [The following resolution was approved by the Executive Committee for presentation to the members voting at this meeting.]

Whereas, the Linguistic Society of America has been sensitive to labor issues in its selection of annual meeting hotels and vendors for many years; and

Whereas, hotel union representation raises wages, supplies benefits, and protects worker dignity, thereby ensuring that economic growth benefits a workforce often composed of people of color, and particularly women of color; and

Whereas, the LSA decision to hold meetings in union or non-union hotels strengthens or weakens the ability of these workers and their unions to secure better working conditions and contribute to equitable urban growth; therefore be it

Resolved, that the LSA reaffirms its longstanding support of the right of workers to organize by continuing its practice of union preference in negotiating hotel and service contracts for any meetings organized by the LSA; therefore be it further

Resolved, that the LSA continues its practice of including labor disputes in the standard escape provision in any LSA contract for annual meeting hotels and meetings.

Resolution 2.

In keeping with the warm and friendly informality of New Mexico, we dispense with the whereases, therefores, and resolveds in presenting the following resolution for approval by the membership gathered here:

First and foremost, we express tremendous gratitude to executive director Margaret Reynolds and her staff at the LSA office for their tireless efforts behind the scenes in making the 2006 Annual Meeting possible and in carrying out with kindness and efficiency the many LSA administrative activities throughout the year;

Second, for their services in organizing the outstanding program for the Albuquerque meeting, we extend our sincere thanks to the Program Committee composed of Peter Culicover, chair, Eugene Buckley, Miriam Meyerhoff, Toshiyuki Ogihara, Cathy O'Connor, Maria Polinsky, Donca Steriade, and Lindsay Whaley;

We also thank the Local Arrangements Committee chaired by Joan Bybee and the signed language interpreting coordinator Barbara Shaffer for their support and assistance in planning the meeting;

In addition, for their cooperation in planning the meeting, we express our appreciation to the following persons who organized the programs for the societies that meet jointly with us: Allan Metcalf for the American Dialect Society, Priscilla Ord for the American Name Society, David Boe for the North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences, Marlyse Baptista and Armin Schwegler for the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, and Victor Golla for the Society of the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas;

We also thank the organizers of the very successful 2005 LSA Institute, co-hosted in Cambridge by MIT and Harvard. We especially thank Sabine Iatridou of MIT, who directed the full and innovative program, C.T. James Huang of Harvard, the local associate director, and Ivan Sag of Stanford, the external associate director. Many other staff and faculty at both MIT and Harvard also played important roles, and we thank them and all the other participants for making it such a stimulating and enjoyable event.

Finally, for their dedicated service to the Society in so many ways, we give special thanks to the retiring members of the LSA Executive Committee: Larry Hyman, Gillian Sankoff, and past president Joan Bybee.

Representatives from NSF and the Endangered Language Fund gave brief reports. The 2006 President Sally McConnell-Ginet, 2006 Vice President/President-Elect Stephen Anderson, and new Executive Committee members Monica Macaulay and Johanna Nichols were introduced, and the meeting was adjourned.