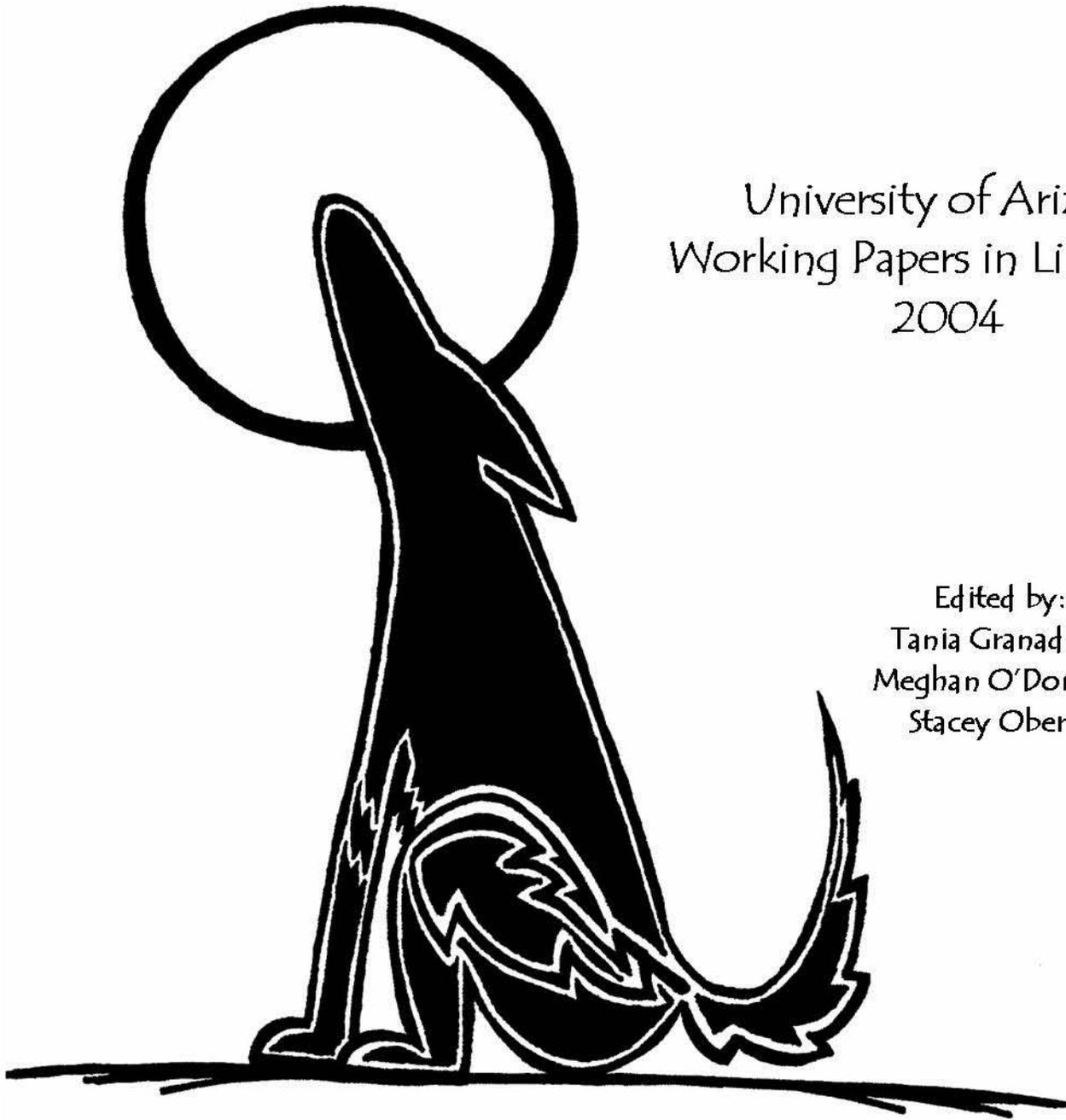


Coyote Papers XIII
Special Volume Dedicated to
the Indigenous Languages of the Americas

University of Arizona
Working Papers in Linguistics
2004

Edited by:
Tania Granadillo
Meghan O'Donnell
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The Cover is original artwork by John T. Oberly, M.A.
Eastern Shoshone – Counselor – Artist – Singer/Songwriter
Native American Flute Player

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EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

“I am ashamed I haven't had the words to carry a friend
from her death to the stars correctly or the words to keep
my people safe from drought or gunshot.”

Joy Harjo, *The Woman Who Fell From the Sky* (1994)

The University of Arizona has a long tradition of commitment to the preservation and study of Indigenous languages. This summer, eighty-one Indigenous language teachers, practitioners, elders, students, administrators, tribal leaders, and educators from across the United States, Canada and Mexico converged in Tucson to participate in the American Indian Language Development Institute (AILDI) hosted by the University of Arizona. AILDI was founded in 1978 by Dr. Ofelia Zepeda (Tohono O'odham), Dr. Lucille Watahomigie (Hualapai), and Dr. Akira Yamamoto, in an effort to reverse language loss. It encourages and supports community-based Indigenous language programs; it provides training in immersion techniques and guidance on the best practices for teaching Indigenous languages; it trains community members to become language researchers, curriculum specialists and effective language advocates and planners; and, it was one of the driving forces behind the Native American Language Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-477). Inspired by this activity, we have tried to contribute to this commitment by editing a special volume of the Coyote Papers dedicated to the Indigenous Languages of the Americas.

One goal of this volume is to provide a glimpse of current linguistic research involving Indigenous languages. Presented here is a mosaic of varied approaches to the study of Indigenous languages, including papers on theoretical linguistics, descriptive linguistics, and language revitalization. The papers by Elías-Ulloa, on Capanahua, and O'Donnell, on Kaska, present data from Indigenous languages that are challenging to analyze within current phonological and morpho-syntactic theory, respectively. Levin shows how the western concept of time is inappropriate to apply to Aymara, resulting in a new analysis of Aymara's tense/mood/aspect system. Cash Cash highlights the importance of language in the conception of culture within Nez Perce. Granadillo's paper on Kurripako and Oberly's paper on Southern Ute present descriptive work that is sure to be a springboard for further research on these under-documented languages. Finally, Haynes has many insights into the language revitalization programs in Warm Springs, Klamath & Grand Ronde, Oregon.

This volume represents research on languages from both South and North America. In many indigenous societies it is a matter of respect and tradition to honor visitors with privileged access to food, gifts and activities. Following this

tradition, this volume presents languages the greatest distance from the University of Arizona first; in South America from south to north and then in North America from north to south. In South America the languages discussed are [Aymara](#), [Capanahua](#), and [Kurripako](#); and in North America [Kaska](#), [Nez Perce](#), [Sahaptin](#), [Wasco](#), [Paiute](#), and [Southern Ute](#).*

It is our hope that this volume inspires more research in Indigenous languages of the Americas. It is extremely urgent that more people contribute to this area of study due to the dire situation that many of these languages face.

Tania Granadillo, Meghan O'Donnell & Stacey Oberly
December, 2004

* To view the Ethnologue map of the area of the world where these languages are spoken, click on the name of the language. We thank Ethnologue for allowing us to link to the maps on their web site.