

Project Title: An Investigation into Cause of Death and the Controversial Phenomenon of Pink Teeth

Investigator: Michelle Hamilton

Department: Anthropology

Project Summary:

Project is dependant on cooperative work with the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office, and data has been slow to accumulate on that end. Project is still in data collection phase, and is anticipated to take another year for meaningful data to gather. In the meantime, the scanner purchased with the REP has been utilized by my graduate student in another project, assessing age variation in tooth dentine in Hispanic populations. Co-authored presentation of this project will be a paper submitted for presentation by Marrero I. and Hamilton M.D. at the 2010 American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting.

Publications:

N/A

Presentations:

None for original project (but see Project Summary for ancillary use of the scanner purchased through this REP, leading to a paper submitted for presentation at the 2010 American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting).

Project Title: Language Contact and Change in Basque and Spanish Morphology

Investigator: Matthew Juge

Department: Modern Languages

Project Summary:

My project entails a one-month visit to Donostia-San Sebastian, Spain, to investigate the sociolinguistic circumstances surrounding the relationships found in the verbal, nominal, and adjectival morphology of Basque and Spanish. Using personal interviews, media resources, and archival materials, I will explore how borrowing of adjectives from Spanish into Basque has created an incipient gender system in this minority language, Western European only non-Indo-European language other than Finnish and the related Sami languages. Further, I will analyze a kind of irregularity in the verb systems of the two languages. Known as suppletion, this type of irregularity involves differences in the stems of forms belonging to the same paradigm, as in the English forms am~is~are~be~were or go~went (in contrast with regular forms like talk~talked and smile~smiled). Comparing these unrelated and typologically diverse languages will offer greater crosslinguistic perspective on this understudied phenomenon. Finally, the data that I gather will contribute to our understanding of a language spoken in a politically sensitive area. My project will contribute to the ongoing goal of linguists to understand how genetic, typological, and contact relationships interact. This investigation represents a continuation of several research projects that I have been conducting, some for more than 15 years.

Publication:

N/A