



Linguistic Society of America

Announcing the first recipients of the 2015 LSA Awards

Today, the LSA is pleased to announce the recipients of three of the **LSA's annual awards**.

Anvita Abbi is the recipient of the 2015 **Kenneth L. Hale Award**, given to scholars who have done outstanding work on the documentation of a particular language or family of languages that is endangered or no longer spoken. Prof. Abbi's decades of work documenting and evaluating the minority languages of India, particularly **Great Andamanese**, have contributed to our understanding of the history of language migration in India and have had a positive impact on revitalizing local cultures. Prof. Abbi is a Professor of Linguistics at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi.

Citation-Anvita Abbi

Kenneth L. Hale Award

Professor Anvita Abbi of Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi has devoted decades of work to documenting the minority languages of India, evaluating their status, and training students in fieldwork and language documentation. She is perhaps best known for her recent outstanding work on the Great Andamanese language, a language on the verge of extinction. She has compiled a rich record of the language, including a dictionary, a grammar, and book on ethno-ornithology. This work brought with it great challenges, with few speakers and difficult living conditions. Her nominator speaks of her Herculean achievement in carrying out documentation of a previously barely documented language to this level of sophistication and comprehensiveness, commenting on how it rings of Ken Hale's values.

For outstanding lifetime contributions to the documentation and description of languages of India, with particular note of her extraordinary contributions to the documentation of the Great Andamanese language, a moribund language that is a key isolate in understanding the peopling of Asia and Oceania.

Lev Michael is the recipient of the 2015 **Early Career Award**, recognizing scholars early in their career who have made outstanding contributions to the field of linguistics. Prof. Michael is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to language documentation and South American linguistics, including his work in creating the **South American Phonological Inventory Database**, which houses data from over 350 languages. Prof. Michael received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 2008, and is currently an Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

The recipient of the Early Career Award is also given complimentary registration and travel reimbursement to the upcoming **2015 LSA Annual Meeting**.

Jim Bauman is the recipient of the 2015 **Linguistic Service Award**, honoring members of the LSA who have performed distinguished service to the Society. As a member of several LSA committees (including the Committee on Public Policy), Dr. Bauman has helped create documents highlighting the importance of linguistics to policymakers and general audiences, and has assisted with the development and creation of the LSA website. Dr. Bauman, known more generally for his work at the **Center for Applied Linguistics**, also served as the LSA observer to **NACLO** in 2013.



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Recipients of several other LSA Awards, including the Linguistic Journalism Award and the Leonard Bloomfield Book Award, will be announced in the coming months. All LSA awards will be presented at the **2015 LSA Annual Meeting** on Saturday, January 10, 5:30 PM Pacific Time at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower. **Full citations for each awardee are available here.**