

The Editor Notes . . .

“Haudenosaunee,” you say? “And how do you spell that?” I asked. That was my response to Thadodahho at Onondaga in the summer of 1983 as he raised my consciousness about the name Iroquois as used by the French and the name Haudenosaunee as the People name themselves.

Kristin Herzog agreed that using Haudenosaunee is the progressive way of dealing with her subject, and the connection between her paper and the other two is clearly established. The essence of their contributions is about the power of language to control perceptions of reality (however it is defined).

Language, as Linda M. C. Abbott and Linda Buck Myers show, can be used for either liberation or domestication. Few people, however, realize that the Bishop of Avila, who interpreted the first compilation of a modern European language in 1492 — a Castilian grammar—to Queen Isabella said that “language is the perfect instrument of empire.” And since that time, it has been used more often to oppress than to liberate. Each author in this issue shows how language can be used to give voice in the struggle for liberation, nonetheless.

In the fall of 1983 issue of *Ethnic Forum, Explorations in Ethnic Studies* was recognized as providing “A useful and lively forum for ‘launching’ ideas and for the exchange of views.” The editorial committee appreciates the vote of confidence extended by *Ethnic Forum*, and we hope that more members will become public referees (as we call those who provide critiques for articles).

Although *Explorations . . .* remains healthy as the contributors to this issue attest, the editor notes with sadness the demise of *Minority Voices* during the past year; its existence was one of the reasons that we decided not to include poetry in NAIES publications. The publishers of *Minority Voices* were forced to discontinue the journal because of their inability to maintain operating costs. The editorial staff of NAIES publications laments the loss of that important voice in the struggle to inform the nation about alternative perspectives to the accepted system of symbols.

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