

LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY

(subject to revision)

Dorothea Hoffmann
dorohoffmann@uchicago.edu
Office hours: Thu 1:30–3:30pm, or by appointment
Office: Rosenwald 205-G.

LING 25000/35000
Tue/Thu 9–10:20am
Rosenwald 208
Autumn 2014

Goals and Course Description:

This course explores the core assumptions and methods of the field of linguistic typology, describing, classifying, and defining the relationships between forms and functions in the world's estimated 7,000 languages. This view of typology is based on the assumption that linguistic diversity needs to be studied in a cross-linguistic context, and this study must be based on a reliable empirical database coming from solid descriptive work. Topics will include a review of typologies based on word order and morphology and an examination a variety of grammatical and conceptual categories and constructions including case, clause structures, parts of speech, spatial language, predicative and inflectional systems, among others.

We will examine a wide variety of languages from across the globe and take interfaces with language change and language documentation into consideration. Against the background of a corpus of data, we will examine the limits of linguistic variation and the explanations proposed for typological patterns, including information management, cognitive processing, and interactional language use and examine the relationship of typology to genetic and areal linguistics.

At the end of the course, students will have a comprehensive understanding of cross-linguistic variation, theoretical approaches, and contemporary issues and debates within the field of linguistic typology.

Prerequisites:

LING 2001 or consent of instructor

Readings:

THERE WILL NOT BE A SINGLE TEXTBOOK FOR THE CLASS, BUT WE WILL DRAW CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES. ALL REQUIRED READINGS WILL BE POSTED ON CHALK.

The books and online sources below are suggestions for a general introduction and data source and will be utilized in parts during the course. The list of readings might be subject to change depending on the interests of the class.

Suggested textbooks:

- Comrie B. 1989. *Language universals and linguistic typology: syntax and morphology*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- Croft W. 2002. *Typology and universals*. (2nd ed.) Cambridge [England]; New York: Cambridge University Press
- Song, Jae Jung. 2001. *Linguistic Typology: Morphology and syntax*. Harlow, UK: Longman.
- Song Jae Jung. 2013. *The Oxford handbook of linguistic typology*, Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press

Online resources:

- Bickel, B., & Nichols, J. 2001. *AUTOTYP: International network of typological linguistic databases*: Retrieved on 09/03/2014 from <http://www.spw.uzh.ch/autotyp>
- Dryer, M. S. & Haspelmath, M. (eds.). 2013. *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Retrieved on 08/29/2014, from <http://wals.info>
- Michaelis, S. M., & Maurer, P., Haspelmath, M., & Huber, M. (eds.). 2013. *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures Online*. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Retrieved on 08/29/2014, from <http://apics-online.info>
- Syntactic Structures of the World's Languages [SSWL]: Retrieved on 09/03/2014 from <http://sswl.railsplayground.net/>
- The resources page of the *Association for Linguistic Typology*: Retrieved on 09/3/2014 from <http://www.linguistic-typology.org/resources.html>
- The *Universals Archive*: Retrieved on 09/03/2014 from <http://typo.uni-konstanz.de/archive/>

Coursework and evaluation

Students are expected to read and study the assigned material and participate in class discussions (20% of your grade). This includes active participation in discussions on assigned readings on Chalk *prior* to the class. Graduate students are additionally expected to lead a class discussion on an assigned reading individually. Undergraduate students can choose to work in pairs. All students will also complete three problem sets (30%). Working in groups on these assignments is encouraged. However, you are required to write up your answers *in your own words*. Finally, students need to complete a term paper (50%) of 15-20 pages (double-spaced) on a topic of their choice approved by the instructor.

TERM PAPER OPTIONS:

#1: Typological sketch of a language:

Choose a language or a number of related languages and describe a linguistic phenomenon or phenomena. Make sure to discuss how it fits into typological classifications and to answer the question of *what is where why?* Limit yourself to the structure you have chosen to examine and keep other parts of language description to an absolute minimum.

#2: *Cross-linguistic survey:*

Pick a linguistic structure or topic and conduct a cross-linguistic survey of the range of variation across the languages of the world. Use a range of different sources for your investigation, including published articles and grammars as well as online databases such as WALS or APiCs. You may also use your own fieldwork data, however, only *after* consulting with the instructor.

#3: *Critical evaluation:*

Choose a cross-linguistic phenomenon that has been described typologically from a range of different angles and critically comment on and evaluate the proposals. Your paper should include a literature review and your suggested conclusion based on existing arguments and papers and/or on your own investigations in a particular language or in the form of a cross-linguistic survey.

POSSIBLE TOPICS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

polysynthesis	deixis	evidentiality	mood and modality
negation	nominalization	relative clauses	classifier systems
definiteness (and related notions: specificity, referentiality)	pronominal and agreement categories (person, number, gender)	<i>wh</i> -questions, focus and clefting (or related constructions)	reduplication types and their grammatical functions
noun phrase structure	scrambling and 'free' word order languages	serial verb constructions	switch-reference and clause chaining
tense and aspect	quantification and/or number marking	lexicalization patterns of motion descriptions	complex predicate formation

Due dates

Problem Sets will be posted on Mondays of the week the assignment is due. All assignments should be handed in via email as a pdf file by **5pm** on the date indicated. Extensions need to be approved *prior* to the deadline by the instructor. If an assignment is handed in *after* the deadline (yes, this includes ten *minutes* after the deadline), 10% of the grade will be deducted for each additional day that the assignment is late.

Problem Set # 1: **Fri, 17 Oct 2014**
Problem Set # 2: **Fri, 07 Nov 2014**
Problem Set # 3: **Fri, 21 Nov 2014**

Paper proposal/
Bibliography **Fri, 31 Oct 2014**
10 min in-class presentations of
your final assignment's highlights **Week 10**
Final paper **Wed, 10 Dec 2014**

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

SEP 30-OCT 2

Tuesday:

Introduction

Nichols, Johanna. 2007. What, if anything, is typology? *Linguistic Typology* 11, 231–238

Polinsky, Maria & Robert Kluender. 2007. Linguistic typology and theory construction: common challenges ahead. *Linguistic Typology* 11, 273–283

Thursday:

The beginnings of typology

Greenberg, Joseph H. 1966. Some universals of grammar with particular reference to the order of meaningful elements. In J. H. Greenberg (ed.), *Universals of language*, 2nd edn. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press [1st edn 1963]. Reprinted in Denning, Keith & Suzanne Kemmer (eds), *On language. Selected writings of Joseph Greenberg*, Stanford: UP, 40-70.

WEEK 2

OCT 7-OCT 9

Tuesday:

Word Order

Comrie B. 1989. Language Typology. [chapter 2]. In: *Language universals and linguistic typology: syntax and morphology*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 33-56

Mithun, Marianne. 1992. Is basic word order universal? In Doris Payne, ed., *Pragmatics of word order flexibility*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 15-61

Further readings:

Austin, Peter. 2001. Word order in a free word order language: the case of Jiwari. In: Jane Simpson, David Nash, Mary Laughren, Peter Austin, Barry Alpher, (eds). *Forty years on: Ken Hale and Australian languages*, 205-223. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.

Dryer, Matthew S. 1992. The Greenbergian word order correlations. *Language* 68:1, 81-138

Dryer, Matthew S. 2007. Word order. In Shopen, Timothy (ed.). *Language Typology and Syntactic Description: Vol 1: Clause Structure*. 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 61-130

Thursday:

Methodology and Sampling

Dryer, Matthew S. 1989. Large linguistic areas and language sampling. *Studies in Language* 13, 257-292.

Further readings:

Bakker, Dik. 2013. Language Sampling. In: Song JJ (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 100-129

WEEK 3**OCT 14-OCT 16****Tuesday:****Developments in Linguistic Typology**

Bickel, Balthasar. 2007. Typology in the 21st century: major current developments. *Linguistic Typology* 11. 239–251.

Newmeyer, Frederick J. 2007. Linguistic typology requires crosslinguistic formal categories. *Linguistic Typology* 11. 133–157.

Further readings:

Haspelmath, Martin. 2007. Pre-established categories don't exist: Consequences for language description and typology. *Linguistic Typology*, 11, 119-132

Thursday:**Typological online databases**

Dryer, M. S. & Haspelmath, M. (eds.). (2013). *The World Atlas of Language Structures Online*. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Retrieved on 08/29/2014, from <http://wals.info>

Michaelis, S. M., & Maurer, P., Haspelmath, M., & Huber, M. (eds.). (2013). *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures Online*. Leipzig: Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. Retrieved on 08/29/2014, from <http://apics-online.info>

PROBLEM SET #1: DUE ON FRIDAY, OCT 17TH AT 5PM.

WEEK 4**OCT 21-OCT 23****Tuesday:****Word Classes**

Bisang W. 2013. 'Word Classes'. In: Song JJ (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 280-302

Evans, N & Osada T. (2005). 'Mundari: The Myth of a language without word classes', *Linguistic Typology* 9:351-90

Thursday:**Classification Systems**

Aikhenvald AY. 2000. Preliminaries. In *Classifiers: A Typology of Noun Categorization Devices*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-18

Croft, William. 2003. Typological Classification. In *Typology and Universals*, (2nd ed.) Cambridge [England]; New York: Cambridge University Press, 31-48

Further readings:

McGregor WB. 2002. Chapters 1 and 10, In *Verb Classification in Australian Languages*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 1-40, 391-412

WEEK 5**OCT 28-OCT 30****Tuesday:****Parameters**

Nichols, Johanna. 1986. Head-marking and dependent-marking grammar. *Language* 62. 56-119.

Further readings:

- Evans, Nicholas, & Fenwick, Eva. 2013. Marking vs. Indexing: Revisiting the Nichols marking-locus typology, In: Bickel, B., Grenoble, L. A., Peterson, D. A., & Timberlake, A. (2013). *Language Typology and Historical Contingency: In honor of Johanna Nichols*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 69-89
- Siewerska, Anna & Dik Bakker. 1996. The distribution of subject and object agreement and word order type. *Studies in Language* 20/1.115-161

Thursday:**Clause Structure and Syntactic Typology**

Croft, W. 1995. 'Modern Syntactic Typology', in M. Shibatani and T. Bynon (eds.), *Approaches to Language Typology*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 85-144

Further readings:

- Comrie B. 1989. Theoretical Prerequisites [chapter 3]. In: *Language universals and linguistic typology: syntax and morphology*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 57-85
- Whaley LJ. 2013. 'Syntactic Typology', In: Song JJ (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 465-486

PAPER PROPOSAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY: DUE ON FRIDAY, OCT 31 AT 5PM.

WEEK 6**NOV 4-NOV 6****Tuesday:****Case marking**

Song, Jae Jung. 2001. Case marking [chapter 3]. *Linguistic Typology: morphology and syntax*. Harlow, UK: Longman,

Further reading (on reference tracking):

- Foley, William A. 2007. A typology of information packaging in the clause. In Timothy Shopen, ed., *Language Typology and Syntactic Description, Vol. 1. Clause Structure*, 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 362-446

Thursday:

Ergativity

Guest Lecture on Ergativity in Tz'utujil Maya

Blake, B. J. 1976. On ergativity and the notion of subject: Some Australian cases. *Lingua*, 39(4), 281-300.

OR

Du Bois, John W. 1987. The discourse basis of ergativity. *Language* 63. 805-855.

(Read Blake OR DuBois)

Further readings

DeLancey, Scott 1981. An interpretation of split ergativity and related patterns. *Language* 57. 626-657.

McGregor, William B. 2009. Typology of ergativity. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 3/1. 480–508.

PROBLEM SET #2: DUE ON FRIDAY, NOV 7 AT 5PM.

WEEK 7

NOV 11-NOV 13

Tuesday:

Serialization

Aikhenvald, A. (2006). Serial verbs constructions in a typological perspective. In R. M. W. Dixon & A. Aikhenvald (Eds.), *Serial verb constructions: A cross-linguistic typology*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-68

Further readings:

Baker, M. C. (1989). Object sharing and projection in serial verb constructions. *Linguistic inquiry*, 20(4), 513-553.

Meakins, Felicity. 2010. The development of asymmetrical serial verb constructions in an Australian mixed language. *Linguistic Typology* 14,1-38

Meyerhoff, M. (2001). Another look at the typology of serial verb constructions: The grammaticalization of temporal relations in Bislama (Vanuatu). *Oceanic linguistics*, 40(2), 247-268.

Thursday:

Complex Predication

- Amberber, M., Baker, B., & Harvey, M. (2007). Complex Predication and the Coverb Construction. In J. Siegel, J. Lynch & D. Eades (Eds.), *Language Description, History and Development*, Amsterdam, Netherlands: Benjamins, 209-219
- Bowern, C. (2010). The typological implications of Bardi complex predicates. *Linguistic Typology*, 14, 39-70.

OR

- Schultze-Berndt, E. (2000). Jaminjung simple and complex predicates in a cross-linguistic perspective. In: *Simple and Complex Predicates in Jaminjung. A study of event categorisation in an Australian language*. (Vol. 14). Nijmegen: University of Nijmegen, 529-552

(read Amberber et al. and Bowern OR Schultze-Berndt)

Further readings:

- Butt, M. 2010. The light verb jungle: still hacking away. In M. Amberber, M. Harvey & B. Baker (Eds.), *Complex predicates: cross-linguistic perspectives on event structure*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 48-78
- Baker, B., & Harvey, M. 2010. Complex predicate formation In M. Amberber, B. Baker & M. Harvey (Eds.), *Complex predicates: Cross-linguistic perspectives on event structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 13-47
- Silverstein, M. 1986. *Classifiers, verb classifiers, and verbal categories*. Proceedings of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Berkeley Linguistics Society, 497-514

WEEK 8

NOV 18-NOV 20

Tuesday:

The Language of Space: Frames of Reference and Lexicalization Patterns

Guest Lecture: Frames of Reference in Greenlandic

- Levinson, Stephen C., and Wilkins, David. 2006. Patterns in the Data. Towards a semantic typology of spatial description. In Stephen C. Levinson and David Wilkins (eds.). *Grammars of Space. Explorations in cognitive diversity*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 512-552

OR

- Slobin, Dan I. 2004. The many ways to search for a frog: Linguistic typology and the expression of motion events. In S. Stroemqvist and L. Verhoeven (eds.): *Relating Events in Narrative: Vol. 2 Typological and contextual perspectives*, Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 219-257

(Read Levinson OR Slobin)

Further readings:

- Talmy, Leonard. 1985. Lexicalization patterns: semantic structure in lexical forms. In Timothy Shopen (ed.). *Language Typology and Syntactic Description*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 57-149
- Talmy, Leonard. 2009. Main Verb Properties and Equipollent Framing. In Jiansheng Guo et al. (eds.): *Crosslinguistic Approaches to the Psychology of Language: Research in the Tradition of Dan Isaac Slobin*, New York: Psychology Press, 389-402

Thursday:

Language Contact and Linguistic Typology/Areal Typology

- Koptjevskaja-Tamm M. (2013) 'Linguistic Typology and Language Contact'. In: Song JJ (ed) *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 568-590

Further reading:

- Nichols, Johanna. 1992. The role of geographies: Structural affinities between areas. In: *Linguistic Diversity in Space and Time*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 184-230

PROBLEM SET #3: DUE ON FRIDAY, NOV 21ST AT 5PM.

WEEK 9

NOV 25-NOV 27

Tuesday:

Beyond Typology: Theory construction

- Bresnan, Joan. 2007. "A few lessons from typology." *Linguistic Typology* no. 11 (1):297-306.
- Baker, Mark. 2010. "Formal generative typology." In *The Oxford handbook of linguistic analysis*, edited by Bernd Heine and Heiko Narrog, 285-312. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

OR

- Dryer, Matthew S. 2006. Descriptive theories, explanatory theories, and basic linguistic theory. In *Catching Language: The standing challenge of grammar writing*, edited by Felix K. Ameka, Alan Charles Dench and Nicholas Evans, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 207-243

(read Bresnan and Baker OR Dryer)

Further readings:

- Epps P. 2013. 'Linguistic Typology and Language Documentation'. In: Song JJ (ed) *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 634-649
- Evans N and Levinson SC. 2009. 'The myth of language universals: Language diversity and its importance for cognitive science.' *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 32: 429-448
- Polinsky M. 2013. 'Linguistic Typology and Formal Grammar'. In: Song JJ (ed) *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology* 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 650-665

Thursday:

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

WEEK 10

DEC 2-DEC 4

Tuesday:

In-class-presentations of paper highlights

Thursday:

In-class presentations of paper highlights continued

Conclusions, class-discussion and back-up for any missed content