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LING 570.01: Typology & Universals

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LING 570 • TYPOLOGY & UNIVERSALS • Fall 2013

I. Contact Information

Instructor: Irene Appelbaum
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Office: Social Sciences 211
Phone: (406) 243-4837
Class Meetings: T, R 2:10-3:30, GBB 108
Office Hours: M 2:30 - 3:30, W 11-12, & by appt.

II. Readings

Most of the assigned readings have been placed on Electronic Reserve (e-res) at the Mansfield Library: <http://www.lib.umt.edu/students-eres>. The Mansfield Library may also be accessed through the UOnline Moodle Home Page (under UOnline Services). Complete bibliographic information for these readings is listed at the end of this syllabus.

The remaining readings for the course come from the following texts:

- Comrie, Bernard (1981, 1989). *Language Universals & Linguistic Typology*, 2nd edition, University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0-226-11433-3.
- Croft, William. *Typology and Universals*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- Dixon, R. M. W. (1994). *Ergativity*, Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-44898-0.
- Zúñiga, Fernando (2006). *Deixis and Alignment: Inverse Systems in Indigenous Languages of the Americas*, John Benjamins Publishing Company. ISBN 978 90 272 9304 6.

These books may be purchased, accessed electronically, or checked out from the Mansfield Library Traditional Reserve.

III. Course Description

In this seminar we will look at linguists' attempts to describe and explain the range and limits of cross-linguistic variation. After an initial discussion of some preliminary topics (universals, sampling, basic categories) we will focus on Word-Order Typology and Grammatical Relations Typology. While the former has received extensive consideration in the field of linguistic typology, the typological study of grammatical relations has been more restricted in terms of the number of grammatical relations acknowledged (typically just subject and object), their appropriateness for cross-linguistic comparison (they're often considered universal), and how grammatical relations are identified (typically by case-marking and agreement only) In this seminar we will treat grammatical relations as *construction-specific* and will consider a wider variety of types of grammatical relations and ways of encoding them. In the final part of the course we will consider the status of cross-linguistic categories more generally and the implications for the field of linguistic typology.

IV. Assignments, Assessment, & Grading

Your work in the course will be assessed by graded assignments as follows:

Test: There will be one in-class test on **Tues. Oct. 01**. Detailed information about the format and content of the test will be given out later in the semester.

Presentations: Each student will be responsible for doing 2 presentations during the semester. The presentations will cover the assigned readings and no additional reading or research is expected for the presentations. Instead, the presentation should consist of a summary of the key points in the reading followed by questions and topics for class discussion. The presentations will take place during Part III of the course.

Papers: Students are required to write **two 10-12 page papers**.

The first paper will be due in **Thurs, Nov. 21**, and will be on an assigned topic in Grammatical Relations Typology. (You will have a choice of topics.)

The second paper will be due **Wed. Dec 11 by 5 pm** in my office (SS 211) or mailbox (SS 239). Topics will be suggested for this paper, but students may substitute an approved topic of their own choosing for the 2nd paper.

Participation: This is a seminar, not a lecture course, so student participation is essential to its success. Students are expected to carefully read each assignment prior to class and to come to class prepared to raise questions and actively participate in discussion.

Grading: Your course grade will be based on the following calculation:

Test	20%
2 Presentations	20% (10% each)
Participation	20%
2 Papers	40% (20% each)

V. Course Policies

Student Conduct Code: You are expected to adhere to the University of Montana Student Conduct Code which may be downloaded from: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

Plagiarism Warning: *Plagiarism is the representing of another's work as one's own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion.* (From the Univ. Catalog: <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/acad/acadpolicy/default.html>.)

Course Accommodations Statement (DDS): If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modification in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services arrange to meet with me during my office hours to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.

Moodle: This course has an online Moodle component. The Moodle website will be used to post course materials including assignments, and to make announcements. If you are not familiar with Moodle you are encouraged to do the **UMOnline 101** tutorial at: <http://umonline.umt.edu/>. Technical support may be accessed through the **Technical Support** menu button on the upper right-hand corner of the Moodle course site, through the UMOonline website, or by calling 406-243-4999.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

I. PRELIMINARIES	
R 8-29	Typological Classification, Croft (2003) Ch. 2 [E-Res]
T 9-03	Implicational Universals & Competing Motivations, Croft (2003) Ch. 3: 49-69 [E-Res]
R 9-05	Large linguistic areas & language sampling, Dryer (1989) [E-Res]
T 9-10	Theoretical Preliminaries, Comrie (1989) Ch. 3 [Trad. Reserve]

II. WORD-ORDER TYPOLOGY

- R 9-12 Word Order, Comrie (1989) Ch. 4 [Trad. Reserve]
 T 9-17 The Greenbergian word order correlations", Dryer (1992) [E-Res]
 R 9-19 Is basic word order universal? Mithun, (1992) [E-Res]

III. GRAMMATICAL RELATIONS TYPOLOGY

A. NOMINALS

1. Alignment

- T 9-24 Intraclausal or Morphological Ergativity, Dixon (1994) Ch. 3.
 R 9-26 Types of Split System, Dixon (1994) Ch. 4.
T 10-01 * TEST *
 R 10-03 Active/agentive case marking and its motivations, Mithun (1991) [E-Res]

2. Hierarchies

- T 10-08 Animacy, Comrie (1989), Ch. 9 [Trad. Reserve]
 R 10-10 An Interpretation of Split Ergativity & Related Patterns, Delancy (1981) [E-Res]
 T 10-15 Case & Referential Properties, Klein & de Swart (2011) [E-Res]

3. Direction Marking

- R 10-17 Alignment and Direction, Zúñiga (2006) Ch. 1
 T 10-22 A Theory of Direction, Zúñiga (2006) Ch. 2: 29-46
 R 10-24 A Theory of Direction, Zúñiga (2006) Ch. 2: 47-68

B. VALENCY

1. Transitivity

- T 10-29 Transitivity in Grammar & Discourse, Hopper & Thompson (1980) [E-Res]

2. Passive

- R 10-31 Passive in the World's Languages, Keenan & Dryer (1985) [E-Res]
 T 11-05 Does Passivization Require a Subject Category?, Mithun, (2008) [E-Res]

3. Noun Incorporation

- R 11-07 On the Nature of Noun Incorporation, Mithun (1986) [E-Res]

4. Obviation

- T 11-12 On the Syntax of Obviation, Aissen (1997) [E-Res]

C. BI-CLAUSAL CONSTRUCTIONS

- R 11-14 Inter-Clausal or Syntactic Ergativity, Dixon (1994) Ch. 6.
 T 11-19 Coordination & Cosubordination, Whaley (1996), 267-280 [E-Res]

IV. THE STATUS OF CROSS-LINGUISTIC CATEGORIES	
R 11-21	What are SAO? Mithun & Chafe (1999) [E-Res] * PAPER 1 DUE * Are Grammatical Relations Universal? Dryer (1997) [E-Res]
T 12-03	Linguistic typology requires cross-linguistic formal categories, Newmeyer (2007) [E-Res]
R 12-05	Pre-established categories don't exist: Consequences for language description and typology, Martin Haspelmath (2007) [E-Res]
W 12-11	* PAPER 2 DUE *

Bibliography for E-Res Readings

- Aissen (1997). On the Syntax of Obviation. *Language* 73:4, pp. 705-750.
- Delancy (1981). An Interpretation of Split Ergativity & Related Patterns, *Language* 57:3, pp. 626-657.
- Dryer (1997). Are Grammatical Relations Universal?, in Bybee, Haiman, Thompson eds., *Essays on Language Function and Language Type*, John Benjamins Publishing, pp. 115-143.
- (1992): The Greenbergian word order correlations. *Language* 68, 1, pp. 81-138.
- (1989): Large linguistic areas and language sampling. *Studies in Language* 13, pp. 257-292.
- Haspelmath (2007). Pre-established categories don't exist: Consequences for language description & typology, *Linguistic Typology* 11, pp. 119-132.
- Hopper & Thompson (1980). Transitivity in Grammar & Discourse. *Language*, Vol. 56, No. 2, pp. 251-299.
- Keenan & Dryer (1985). Passive in the World's Languages, in Timothy Shopen, ed., *Language Typology and Syntactic Description. V.1 Clause structure*, Cambridge University Press, Ch. 5, pp. 325-361.
- Klein & de Swart (2011). Case & Referential Properties, *Lingua* 121, pp. 3-19.
- Mithun, (2008). Does Passivization Require a Subject Category?, in Greville Corbett and Michael Noonan, *Case and Grammatical Relations*, John Benjamins Publishing, pp. 213-240.
- (1992): Is basic word order universal? in *Pragmatics of Word Order Flexibility*, ed. D. Payne, Ch. 2, pp. 17-61.
- (1991): Active/agentive case marking and its motivations. *Language*, 67, pp. 510-546.
- (1986). On the Nature of Noun Incorporation, *Language* 62:1, pp. 32-37.
- Mithun & Chafe (1999). What are SAO? *Studies in Language*. 23:3, 569-596.
- Newmeyer (2007). Linguistic typology requires cross-linguistic formal categories, *Linguistic Typology* 11, pp. 133-157.
- Whaley (1996). *Introduction to Typology: The Unity and Diversity of Language*. Sage Publications, pp. 267-280