



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Issues in Linguistic Typology - 41808

Last update 08-02-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: linguistics

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Eitan Grossman

Coordinator Email: eitan.grossman@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: TBA

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Ethan Grossman

Course/Module description:

Languages differ. Typology asks to what extent and why. Are there limits to cross-linguistic variation? Are there recurring patterns across languages, or universal properties? What are the causal factors implicated in the distribution of linguistic properties across time and space?

A major question in linguistic typology is the relative contributions to cross-linguistic similarity (or difference) of shared inheritance, on the one hand, and language contact-induced factors, on the other. This course will explore this last question, via a relatively tight focus on the typology of sound systems in a particular region of the world (roughly, Kurdistan), where languages from several families are spoken and multilingual is the norm.

Course/Module aims:

To get a hands-on understanding of contemporary typology, via a collaborative project on phonological typology.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Use existing databases to investigate typological distributions
- Construct a small typological database
- Locate relevant descriptive data
- Read and analyze phonological descriptions
- Draw inferences about the causes of distributions in the database
- Relate typological findings to existing phonological theories

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures and classroom discussion

Course/Module Content:

Class Date Topic Reading Exercise Languages
1 28.2.17 Introducing phonological typology and the goals of distributional typology
Gordon Ch. 2 WALS Language 1
2 7.3.17 Phoneme inventories: consonants Gordon Ch. 3 UPSID Language 2

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- 3 14.3.17 Phoneme inventories: vowels Gordon Ch. 3 Working with descriptions Language 3
4 21.3.17 Syllable Gordon Ch. 4 Working with descriptions Language 4
5 28.3.17 Processes Gordon Ch. 5 World Phonotactics Database Language 5
6 25.4.17 Features Mielke TBA PBASE Language 6
7 9.5.17 Phonological areas Per area SAPHON Language 7
8 16.5.17 How to build a database descriptions Database construction Language 8
9 23.5.17 Working with descriptions descriptions Database construction Language 9

10 6.6.17 Working with descriptions descriptions Database construction Language 10
11 13.6.17 Working with descriptions descriptions Database construction Language 11
12 20.6.17 Final presentations none none none
13 27.6.17 Final presentations none none none

Required Reading:

Gordon, Matthew. 2016. *Phonological typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Maddieson, Ian. 1984. *Patterns of sounds*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Additional Reading Material:

Bateman, Nicoleta. 2007. *A crosslinguistic investigation of palatalization*. PhD dissertation, Department of Linguistics, University of California, San Diego. Available at the Open Access Digital Library, Language Description Heritage collection.
Bateman, Nicoleta. 2011. *On the Typology of Palatalization*. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 5: 588-602.
Blevins, Juliette, 2008. *Evolutionary Phonology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
Bybee, Joan. 2001. *Phonology and Language Use*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
--- 2008. 'Formal Universals as Emergent Phenomena: The Origins of Structure Preservation,' in: Jeff Good (ed.) 2008: 108-121.
Evans, Nicholas and Stephen Levinson, 2009. 'The Myth of Language Universals: Language Diversity and its Importance for Cognitive Science,' *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 26: 429-492.
Ferguson, Charles A., 1968. 'Assumptions about Nasals: A Sample Study in Phonological Universals,' in: Joseph H. Greenberg (ed.) 1968: 53-60.
Good, Jeff (ed.), 2008. *Linguistics Universals and Language Change*. Oxford: Oxford University.
Gordon, Matthew. 2016. *Phonological typology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Greenberg, Joseph H., 1962. 'Is the vowel-consonant dichotomy universal?' *Word* 18: 73-81.

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- 1966. 'Synchronic and diachronic universals in phonology,' *Language* 42/2: 508-17.
- 1968. *Universals of Language, Second Edition*. Cambridge, MA & London, UK: The MIT Press.
- 1978. *Universals of Human Language. Volume 2: Phonology*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. [Contains articles on many aspects of phonological typology.]
- Hansson, Gunnary. 2008. *Diachronic Explanations of Sound Patterns*. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 2(5):859-893.
- Halle, Morris, 1970. 'Is Kabardian a vowel-less language?' *Foundations of Language* 6: 95-103.
- Haspelmath, Martin, Matthew Dryer, David Gil, and Bernard Comrie (eds.), 2005. *World Atlas of Language Structures*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. Updated version available online at wals.info. Especially relevant are Features 1-19.
- Hockett, Charles F., 1955. *A Manual of Phonology*. Baltimore: Waverly Press.
- 1968. 'The Problem of Universals in Language,' in Joseph H. Greenberg (ed.) 1968: 1-29, esp. pp. 24-28.
- Hyman, Larry. 2007. 'Where's Phonology in Typology?' *Linguistic Typology* 11:265-271.
- 2008. 'Universals in Phonology.' *The Linguistic Review* 25: 83-137.
- 2010. 'Affixation by place of articulation in Tiene,' in: Michael Cysouw and Jan Wohlgemuth (eds.), *Rara & Rarissima. Collecting and Interpreting Unusual Characteristics of Human Languages*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter. 145-184.
- 2011. 'Are there really no syllables in Gokama, or: What's so great about being universal?' *Phonology* 28: 55-85.
- 2009. 'How (not) to do phonological typology: The Case of Pitch Accent.' *Language Sciences* 31:213-238.
- forthcoming. *Do All Languages Have Word Accent?*
- Jakobson, Roman, 1941. *Child Language, Aphasia and Phonological Universals*, The Hague: Mouton.
- Kiparsky, Paul, 2006. 'Amphichronic linguistics vs. Evolutionary Phonology.' *Theoretical Linguistics*, 32: 217-236.
- 2008. 'Universals Constrain Change; Change Results in Typological Generalizations,' in: Jeff Good (ed.) 2008: 23-53.
- Ladefoged, Peter and Ian Maddieson, 1996. *The Sounds of the World's Languages*. Oxford, UK & Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
- Lass, Roger, 1984. 'Phonological Systems,' in: *Phonology: An Introduction to Basic Concepts*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 125-168.
- Lindblom, Björn and Ian Maddieson, 1988. 'Phonetic Universals in Consonant Systems,' in: Larry M. Hyman and Charles N. Li (eds.), *Language, Speech and Mind: Studies in Honor of Victoria A. Fromkin*. London: Routledge. 62-78.
- Maddieson, Ian. 1984. *Patterns of sounds*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Maddieson, Ian, 2011. 'Typology of Phonological Systems,' in: Jae Jung Song (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. 534-548.

Mielke, Jeff, 2008. *The Emergence of Distinctive Features*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Nartey, Jonas N.A., 1979. *A Study in Phonemic Universals, especially concerning Fricatives and Stops*. *UCLA Working Papers in Phonetics* 46.

Saporta, Sol, 1968. 'Phoneme Distribution and Language Universals,' in: Joseph H. Greenberg (ed.) 1968: 61-72.

Telfer, Corey S. 2006. *Coronalization as Assibilation*. Calgary: University of Calgary doctoral. dissertation.

Trubetzkoy, Nikolai S., *Principles of Phonology* (trans. Christiane A.M. Baltaxe). Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 10 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 10 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 70 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

none