



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Phonological typology - 41842

Last update 28-10-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Linguistics

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Ethan Grossman

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

Coordinator Office Hours: Thursday 10:30

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.

In this course, we explore these questions through the lens of phonological typology, the study of diversity and universals in sound systems.

Course/Module aims:

To get a hands-on understanding of contemporary typology, via readings and 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: Classroom discussion, student presentations

Course/Module Content:

1. Overview: what is phonological typology?
2. Structuralist approaches: Hockett, Martinet, Trubetskoy, Jakobson
3. Greenbergian approaches
4. Vowel inventories
5. Consonant inventories
6. Phonotactics and alternations

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7. Distinctive features
 8. Accent and tone
 9. Design features: structure preservation? duality of patterning
 10. Areal typology
 11. Diachronic typology
 12. Extralinguistic determinants of sound patterns: population size and distance from Africa
 13. Extralinguistic determinants of sound patterns: topography and climate
 14. Concluding discussion

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.
--- 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*

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- 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 20 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 40 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 40 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: