

Introduction to Typology (methods)

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Typology

- The study of how languages vary (and what is universal)
- Universalist typology
 - What do all languages have in common (universals)?
 - Implicational universals
- Distributional typology
 - How much do languages vary?
 - What are the statistical distributions of properties?
 - What's where and why?

Reading:

Bickel, Balthasar. 2007.

Typology in the 21st century:
major current developments.

Typology

- Typology methods
 - How to compare languages (comparative concepts, typological variables)
 - How to get reliable descriptions / documentation (e.g. corpus) of a variety of languages
 - Quantitative methods

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Documentation and description

- Old term: “field methods”
- The methodology for describing and documenting a language that has little or no information on it (?)
- Documentary linguistics: creating a lasting record of a language.
- Why is it necessary?
 - There’s a problem with studying constraints on diversity if we don’t know what that diversity is

Readings on documentary linguistics

Woodbury, Anthony C. 2003. Defining documentary linguistics.
Language documentation and description, vol. 1. 35-51.

Austin, Peter K. 2014. Language documentation in the 21st century.
JournalLIPP 3. 57-71.

Typology and language documentation

- What's the relationship?
 - You need data from a wide variety of languages to make typological claims
 - Typological findings inform language description and what should or could be documented.
 - Documentation tools (e.g. surveys, elicitation videos) come from advances in linguistic typology
 - Criticisms and development of concepts in linguistic typology come from detailed descriptions of individual languages

Readings on typology and language documentation

Epps, Patience. 2013 Linguistic typology and language documentation.
In *Handbook of Linguistic Typology*. Sun, Jae Jung (ed)

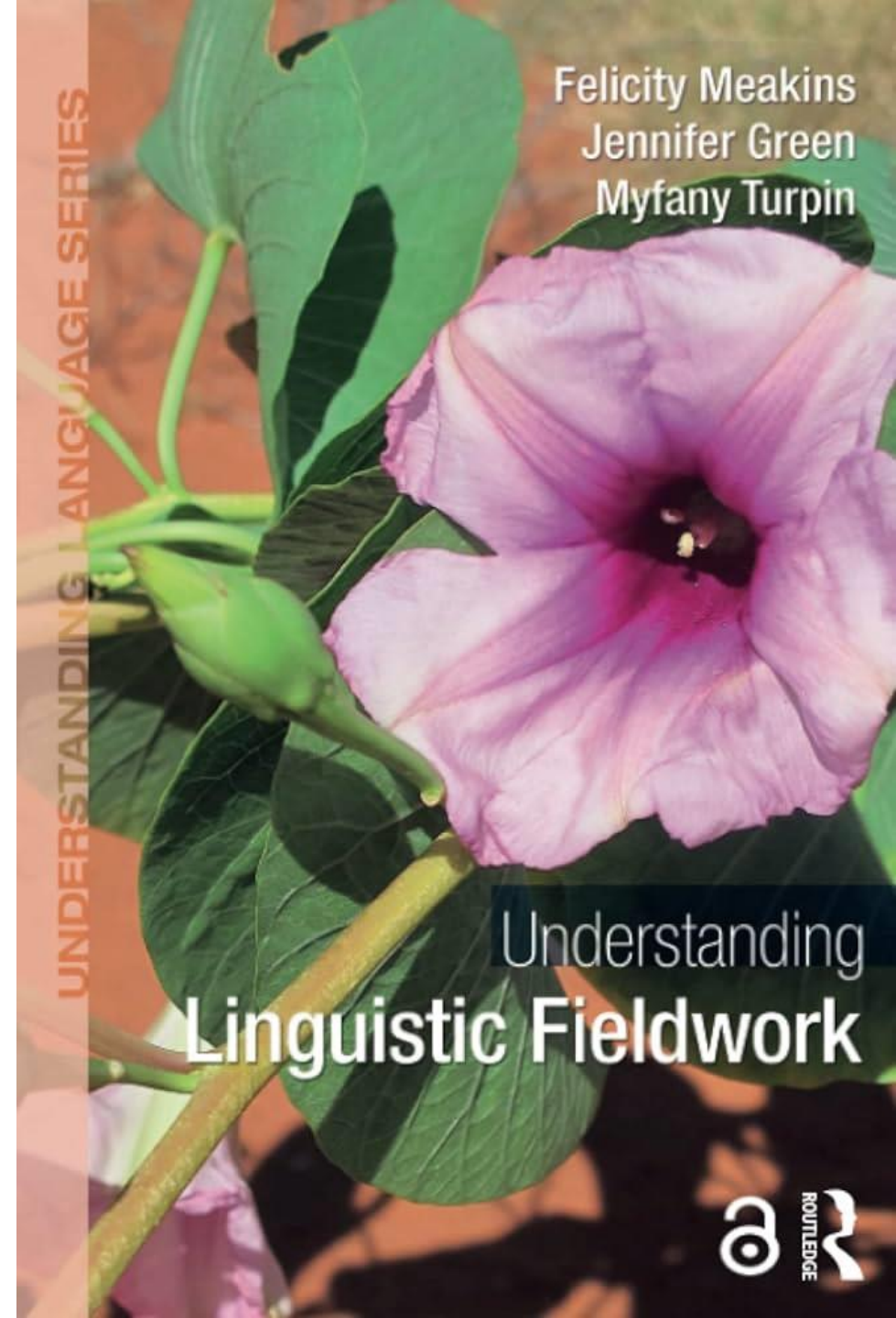
Bond, Oliver. Language documentation and language typology.
Language Documentation and Description. vol. 7 238-261.

What we will do in this course

- Elicit data from native speaker (of Ho Chi Minh Vietnamese)
- Write descriptive sketches of aspects of Ho Chi Minh grammar based on data gathered in the class
- Learn the basic techniques of documentary linguistics (corpus building, analyzing data for description etc.)

For next class you need

- Notebook (preferably hardback)
- BIC black pen(s)
- Do readings (syllabus will be updated incrementally)



Things you need to learn

- IPA transcription
- Data management
- Interlinear glossing (I will post a guide)

Course management

- There will be seven homeworks, you must do all of them
 - Rough guide: 8-12 pages each, Times New Roman
- There will be a final term paper
- You can get slight extensions on homeworks if you email me
- You have to prepare for each class