

## **SOUND CHANGE (Research Seminar in Formal Linguistics I: Special Topics)**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Linguistics Master's Degree (UPV/EHU) 2020**

**INSTRUCTOR: Ander Egurtzegi**

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**COURSE  
PERIOD:** March 24, 26, 31. April: 2. May 2019: 5, 7, 12, 14, 26, 28.

**CLASS  
HOURS:** 15:00-18:00.

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### **A. DESCRIPTION**

This class offers an accessible introduction to the concept of sound change and the different phonological processes it encompasses, using examples from a wide range of languages which can be adapted to the particular interests of the attending students. Several typologies of phonetically natural sound change will be discussed and compared in order to present a comprehensible outline of how the sounds of the world's languages change over time.

### **B. ORGANIZATION**

This is a lecture in which topics are presented by the instructor. It is advised that students go through the materials again at home, with especial focus on the topic chosen for their presentation. There is no final exam planned. Familiarity with some of the course topics is assumed. Students are assumed to have general knowledge of linguistics and basic familiarity with phonology. Nevertheless, most basic concepts regarding the topics of interest will be discussed in class. Questions about any of them are welcome, during and after the class or by email.

### **C. OBJECTIVES**

1. To introduce students to the general mechanisms of sound change.
2. To introduce the students to the different kinds of change through examples from a range of languages from different linguistic families and geographic areas.
3. To introduce the students to the modern approaches to historical phonology and sound change research.
4. To orient the students in the research methodologies of the discipline through their presentation.

### **D. COURSE TOPICS**

1. Introduction to variation and historical change
2. Neogrammarian sound change
3. Kinds of sound change
4. Modern typologies of sound change
5. Phonetic motivation in sound change
6. Models of linguistic diversification
7. Phases of sound change

### **E. READINGS**

1. Labov, W. 2020. The regularity of regular sound change. *Language* 96, 42-59.
  - 2a. Harrington et al. 2019. Phonetic change in an Antarctic winter. *JASA* 146, 3327-3332.
  - 2b. Sonderegger, M., M. Bane, P. Graff. 2017. The medium-term dynamics of accents on reality television. *Language* 93, 598-640.
  3. Ohala, J.J. 1993. The phonetics of sound change. In C. Jones (ed.), *Historical Linguistics: Problems and Perspectives*. London: Longman, 237-278.
  4. Blevins, J. 2015. Evolutionary Phonology: A holistic approach to sound change typology. In P. Honeybone and J. Salmons (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Historical Phonology*. Oxford: OUP, 485-500.
  5. Harrington et al. 2019. The phonetic basis of the origin and spread of sound change. W. Katz & P. Assmann (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Phonetics*.
  6. Labov, W. 2007. Transmission and diffusion. *Language* 83, 344-387.
- Optional: Weinreich, U., W. Labov & M. Herzog. 1968. Foundations for an empirical theory of language change. In W.P. Lehmann & Y. Malkiel (eds.), *Directions for historical linguistics*. Austin: The University of Texas, 95-188.

## **F. GRADING**

Grading is based in the final presentation or research paper, and complemented by everyday participation in class.

## **G. EXPECTED COURSE SCHEDULE**

26.03.2020	1	What is sound change? Neogrammarian sound change Reading I
31.03.2020	2	Kinds of sound change I
02.04.2020	3	Kinds of sound change II Reading II
07.04.2020	4	Kinds of sound change III Readings III & IV
05.05.2020	5	Modern typologies of sound change
07.05.2020	6	Phonetic motivation in sound change I Reading V
12.05.2020	7	Phonetic motivation in sound change II
14.05.2020	8	Models of linguistic diversification Reading VI & Optional reading
26.05.2020	9	Phases of Sound Change
28.05.2020	10	An example of research on sound change / Presentations