

ENG 452: Linguistic Typology

Course objectives

This course is an introduction to the principles and practices of linguistic typology, i.e. the cross-linguistic comparison of languages independent of their historical and geographical connections. At the conclusion of the course students will be familiar with the main trends language typology in terms of phonology, morphology and syntax, and ways in which languages are similar (linguistic universals) and different (linguistic diversity).

Course schedule: Mon Wed 10:00-11:00 & Fri 12:00-13:00 hrs

Venue: L11

Lecture topics

Topic	Readings
1 Methodology and universals	Croft (2003: 1-30, 49-69) Song (2001: 1-48) Whaley (1997: 30-53)
2 Phonological typology	Maddieson (1984) Haspelmath et. al (2005)
3 Morphological typology	Nichols (1986) Whaley (1997: 127-148) Song (2001: 197-202)
4 Constituent order typology	Dryer (2007: 61-131) Song (2001: 49-137) Whaley (1997: 79-107)
5 Grammatical relations and alignment	Croft (2003: 142-157) Dixon (1994: 143-181) Whaley (1997: 151-169) Song (2001: 138-156)
6 Hierarchies and semantic maps	Croft (2003: 122-142) Whaley (1997: 170-182)
7 Typology of word classes	Schacter and Shopen (2007: 1-60) Whaley (1997: 56-64)
8 Typology of valence	Margetts and Austin (2007) Whaley (1997: 183-192) T. Payne (1997: 169-222)
9 Typology of negation	Dryer (1988) Miestamo (2005: 1-25) J. Payne (1985: 197-242)
10 Typology of relative clauses	Andrews (2007: 206-236) Comrie (1989: 138- 164) Song (2001: 211-156)

Textbooks

There is no single textbook for this course, but there are several that will be very useful.

- Comrie, Bernard. 1989. *Language universals and linguistic typology* (second edition). Oxford: Blackwell.
- Croft, William. 2003. *Typology and universals* (second edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Shopen, Timothy (ed.). 2007. *Language typology and syntactic description. Volume 1: Clause structure* (second edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Song, Jae Jung. 2001. *Linguistic typology: morphology and syntax*. Harlow: Longman.
- Whaley, Lindsay J. 1996. *Introduction to typology: the unity and diversity of language*. London: Sage.

Other core readings

Further reading will be suggested as each topic is covered.

- Andrews, Avery D. 2007. Relative clauses. In T. Shopen (ed.), *Language typology and syntactic description. Volume 2: Complex constructions* (second edition), 206-236. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dixon, R. M. W. 1994. *Ergativity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dryer, Matthew. 1988. Universals of negative position. In M. Hammond, E. Moravcsik and J. R. Wirth (eds), *Studies in Syntactic Typology*. Typological Studies in language 17. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Dryer, Matthew S. 2007. Word order. A typology of information packaging in the clause. In T. Shopen(ed.), *Language typology and syntactic description. Volume 1: Clause structure* (second edition), 61-131. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Foley, William. 2007. A typology of information packaging in the clause. In T. Shopen (ed.), *Language typology and syntactic description. Volume 1: Clause structure* (second edition), 362-446. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Haspelmath, Martin. 2006. Against markedness (and what to replace it with). *Journal of Linguistics*, 42: 25-70.
- Haspelmath, Martin, Matthew Dryer, David Gil and Bernard Comrie (eds). 2005. *The World Atlas of Language Structures*. (Book with interactive CD-ROM). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Maddieson, Ian. 1984. *Patterns of Sounds*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Margetts, Anna and Peter K. Austin. 2007. Three-participant events in the languages of the world: towards a cross-linguistic typology. *Linguistics*, 45: 393-451.
- Nichols, Johanna. 1986. Head-marking and dependent-marking grammar. *Language*. 62: 65-112.
- Payne, John R. 1985. Negation. In T. Shopen (ed.), *Language typology and syntactic description. Volume 1: Clause structure*, 197-242. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Payne, Thomas E. 1997. *Describing morphosyntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schachter, Paul and Timothy Shopen, 2007. In T. Shopen (ed.), *Language typology and syntactic description. Volume 1: Clause structure* (second edition), 1-60. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Evaluation:

Assignments and quizzes: 40%

Mid-semester exam: 25%

End-semester exam: 25%

Attendance, classroom discussion, diligence in presenting examples and citing sources: 10%

Deadlines are non-negotiable.

No re-exams will be conducted unless recommended by DoAA office.

Plagiarism will attract strict disciplinary action.

Attendance:

Students who have less than 75% attendance by mid-semester exam week, will be recommended for deregistration.

Housekeeping:

If this course is not your priority, do not enter the classroom beyond 10:10 hrs (Mon Wed) and 12:10 hrs (Fri). Keep your phones (on mute), ear buds, headphones and other such devices in your bags.