Linguistic Diversity

Bachelor Computerlinguistik

Vorlesung   2 SWS   ECTS-Punkte: 3
Lecturer: Annemarie Verkerk
Mi 10.15–11:45, MS Teams

First class: 04-11-2020
Last class: 03-02-2021
Examination deadlines: exam on 18-02-2021
Moodle key: Typology

Description

The students are given a broad introduction to the diversity of the languages of the world. After attending the course participants should be able to appreciate the different solutions that have evolved to express language on various levels (phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicon). They should have familiarity with methods both in typology and historical linguistics, including the analysis of syntactic patterns in foreign languages and linguistic reconstruction. Students should also be able to identify and evaluate quantitative approaches to typology and historical linguistics.

We discuss findings from linguistic typology, which attempts to classify languages on the basis of their structural features, especially focusing on which features are common and which are rare. A second focus is on the methods of historical linguistics. Several corpora of written and spoken language will be explored to give participants real-world experience. Topics include: Genealogical perspective on the languages of the world; Typological perspectives on phonology, morphology, syntax (lexical classes, semantic roles, grammatical relations, case and agreement systems, word order), and the lexicon; Language universals; The comparative method and linguistic reconstruction; Language contact; Models of language change; Language birth, death, and revitalisation; Writing systems; and Linguistic relativity.

Readings

Campbell, Lyle. 2004. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Comrie, Bernard, ed. 2009. *The World's Major Languages*. London: Routledge.

Evans, Vyvyan, and Melanie C. Green. 2006. *Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Nettle, Daniel. 1998. 'Explaining Global Patterns of Language Diversity'. *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 17 (4): 354–374.

Nettle, Daniel, and Suzanne Romaine. 2000. *Vanishing Voices: The Extinction of the World's Languages*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Velupillai, Viveka. 2012. *An Introduction to Linguistic Typology*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Requirements

Abschlussklausur with take-home assignments during the semester. **Active participation in and outside of class is required for admission to the final exam.**

Course Schedule
Due to the corona virus situation, the winter semester of 2020/2021 at the UdS has been postponed to start in the week of 02-11-2020.

Date	class no.	Topic	Reading
04.11.20	1	What is (a) language?	Comrie (2009) Introduction
11.11.20	2	Phonological typology	Velupillai (2012) Chapter 4
18.11.20	3	Morphological typology	Velupillai (2012) Chapter 5
25.11.20	4	Word classes and lexical typology	Velupillai (2012) Chapter 6
02.12.20	5	Word order and linguistic universals	Velupillai (2012) Chapter 10
09.12.20	6	Nominal categories	Velupillai (2012) Chapter 7
16.12.20	7	Verbal categories	Velupillai (2012) Chapter 8
06.01.21	8	Clausal syntax/grammatical relations	Velupillai (2012) Chapter 9
13.01.21	9	Methods of historical linguistics	Campbell (2004) Chapter 5
20.01.21	10	Explanations of linguistic diversity	Nettle (1998)
27.01.21	11	Cognitive linguistics and linguistic relativity	Evans & Green (2006) Chapter 3
03.02.21	12	Language birth, death, and revitalisation	Nettle & Romaine (2000) Chapter 1