

## Grammatical Categories in Comparative Perspective: Gender

Dozent: Dr. Annemarie Verkerk  
Veranstaltungsart: MA  
Zeit: MO 10.00 – 12.00  
Raum: SR 316, Carl-Zeiß-Straße 3

Sommersemester 2018, 09.04.2018 bis 13.07.2018

Examination deadlines: 1st: 28.09.18  
2nd: 30.11.18

Exam: 19-07-2018

Wordwise enrolment key: gender

### Description:

In this course we will consider grammatical gender, one particular type of nominal classification, from a cross-linguistic perspective. Gender is one of the most intriguing grammatical categories: completely absent in many languages, but at the same time present in perhaps up to a third of the world's languages. Where it is found, it is by definition engrained in the core of the language. In the first two-thirds of the course, we will focus on various themes related to gender, including the typology, origins and diachrony, acquisition, and functions of gender systems. In the last third, students will focus on the description of grammatical gender in particular groups of related languages, focusing on cross-linguistic variation in the number and types of gender distinctions, gender assignment, the morpho-syntax of gender marking, and/or historical change.

### Prerequisite:

Basic knowledge of grammatical categories

### Requirements:

Active participations in class & in small experiments  
Presentation on gender systems of particular language group  
Term paper (or written examination)

### Readings:

The readings can be downloaded from word wise: <http://www.wordwise.uni-jena.de/>

### Course Schedule

Week number	Date	Topic	Reading/assignment
1	09-04-2018	Introduction	-
2	16-04-2018	Typology	Corbett (2007)
3	23-04-2018	Semantics	Aikhenvald (2012)
4	30-04-2018	Diachrony I	Greenberg (1978)
5	07-05-2018	Gender in Khoe languages, guest lecture by Anne Fehn	Kilian-Hatz & Heine (2010)

6	14-05-2018	First language acquisition/Bantu	Demuth (2000) – class cancelled
7	21-05-2018	Pentecost, no class	
8	28-05-2018	First language acquisition/Bantu	Demuth (2000), Mulford (1985), Pérez-Pereira (1991)
9	04-06-2018	Functions	Kilarski (2013: 225-272)
10	11-06-2018	Linguistic relativity	Boroditsky et al. (2003), Bender et al. (2011)
11	18-06-2018	Practical work	Gagliardi & Lidz (2014)
12	25-06-2018	Practical work	Trudgill (1999)
13	02-07-2018	Guest lecture Dan Ke	Corbett & Fedden (2016)
14	09-07-2018	Guest lecture Martin Haspelmath	no reading

### Further details on requirements

For the first 6 lectures (excluding the introduction), each of you will prepare a question and bring it to class. We will collect all these questions, so please make notes for yourself during the discussion while we discuss everybody's questions. On 21-05, you will submit a short essay (max 1000 words) on one of these questions (can be your own, or originally asked by somebody else). Ideally, the essay focuses on something that we have learned so far over the course, or on a topic for which recent progress has been made in the description of gender systems.

The practical work in the last third of the course requires typological work in pairs or groups on related languages that is presented in class. You can discuss cross-linguistic variation within the family by focusing on e.g.:

1. Number of gender distinctions (also: are controller genders different from target genders? Are there subgenders or inquirator genders?)
2. Gender assignment (semantic or formal, if formal, morphological or phonological, or both?)
3. Morphosyntax of gender marking (which word classes show agreement for gender?)
4. Diachrony (can you identify changes in gender marking when you compare the different languages?)
5. Can you find any information in the materials on default gender?
6. Can you find any information in the materials on gender resolution (when agreement needs to be established for conjoined noun phrases, for instance)?

Language families to be studied, amongst others:

Nakh-Daghestanian:

Hinuq (foraker\_hinuq2011.pdf)

Avar (charachize\_avar1981.pdf)

Ingush (nichols\_ingush2011v.3.pdf)

Lezgian (haspelmath\_lezgian1993.pdf)

Aghul (saumjan\_agulskogo1941.pdf)

Archi (is described in Corbett 2007)

Omotic:

South-Omotic: Hamar (petrollino\_hamar2016.pdf)

Dime (seyoum\_dime2008\_o.pdf)

Ta-Ne-Omotic: Maale (amha\_maale2001.pdf)

Wolaytta (lamberti-sottile\_wolaytta1997\_o.pdf)

Benchnon (rapold\_benchnon2006\_o.pdf)

Dizoid: Sheko (hellenthal\_sheko2010.pdf)

Dizin (beachy\_dizin2005\_o.pdf)