

Languages of Europe, languages of the World

WP1 Europäische Sprachen: Sprachen der Welt / Sprachen im Kontrast
BA Language Science

Proseminar 2 SWS ECTS-Punkte: 3

Freitag 12-14 Uhr - R. 1.27

Lecturer: Annemarie Verkerk

First class: 18-10-2019

Last class: 07-02-2020

Description

In this seminar, we look at the languages of Europe from a typological perspective. Most European languages belong to a linguistic area called 'Standard Average European'. They share particular features of which some are unique among the languages of the world. We review these features (among others, definite/indefinite articles, 'have'-perfect, lack of verbal negation) and discuss how common these are outside of Europe. We also look at common features that Standard Average European languages lack, such as a distinction between alienable and inalienable adnominal possession and an inclusive/exclusive opposition in first person pronouns. This seminar serves as an introduction to linguistic typology and language variation and makes attendees look at the well-known languages of Europe from the perspective of world-wide linguistic diversity.

Requirements

Active participations in class

Small assignments during the course (including presentation during 5th class and two take-home review exams)

Course Schedule

No.	Date	Topic class	Reading due	Assignment due
1	18-10-2019	Introduction	-	-
2	25-10-2019	Short survey of the languages of the world, making a map	Comrie (2017)	-
3	01-11-2019	No class, All Saints day	Whaley (1997) Chap. 1	Research ideas
4	08-11-2019	More typology	Lyovin (2017) Sect 1.2 p. 15-26	Lyovin Assignments 1.3.2 & 1.3.3
5	15-11-2019	Languages of Europe	Krasnoukhova (2019)	Mini-presentations on minority languages of Europe
6	22-11-2019	Standard Average European	Haspelmath (2001)	-
7	29-11-2019	Definite & Indefinite articles	Czardybon (2017) Intro + Summary	-
8	06-12-2019	Relative clauses	Comrie (1998)	Mini-take-home exam I
9	13-12-2019	Prominence of 'have' verb	Dahl (to appear)	-
10	20-12-2019	Word order	Dunn et al. (2011)	-
11	10-01-2020	Polar questions	Siemund (2001)	-
12	17-01-2020	Gender	Corbett (2006)	-
13	24-01-2020	No class	Mühlhäusler (2001)	Lyovin Assignment Gender in Fijian
14	31-01-2020	Pronouns & Negation	Miestamo (2005) Sect. 1.2	-
15	07-02-2020	Review & Evaluation	-	Mini-take-home exam II

Detailed course schedule with readings

1. 18-10-2019

Lecture: Introduction

2. 25-10-2019

Lecture: Short survey of the languages of the world

Reading: Comrie, Bernard. 2017. "Languages of the World." In *The Handbook of Linguistics*, edited by Mark Aronoff and Rees-Miller, Janie, 21–38. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.

3. 01-11-2019

Lecture: All Saints day, no class

Reading: Whaley (1997) "Introduction to Typology and Universals" Chapter 1, p. 3-17

Assignment: After reading Whaley (1997: Chap. 1), which is after all 20 years old, what topic would you like to research if you had to write a term paper in linguistic typology? Why? (300-500 words)

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4. 08-11-2019

Lecture: More typology

Reading: Lyovin, Anatole. 2017. An introduction to the languages of the world. Oxford University Press: Oxford. Sect. 1.2, p. 15-26

Assignment: [Lyovin Assignments 1.3.2 & 1.3.3](#)

5. 15-11-2019

Lecture: Languages of Europe

Reading: Krasnoukhova, Olga. 2019. "Languages of Europe." In *The Sage Encyclopedia of Human Communication Sciences and Disorders*, edited by Jack Damico and Martin J. Ball, 1036–40. Los Angeles: SAGE Reference.

Assignment: Give a presentation about a minority language of Europe. Include the following:

1. A socio-linguistic overview (country, status, register use, no. of L1/L2 speakers, etc.)
2. A book originally written in that language
3. A song originally written in that language
4. Video or audio material of people talking, preferably with subtitles

6. 22-11-2019

Lecture: Standard Average European

Reading: Haspelmath, Martin. 2001. "The European Linguistic Area: Standard Average European." In *Language Typology and Universals: An International Handbook*, edited by Martin Haspelmath, Ekkehard König, Wulf Oesterreicher, and Wolfgang Raible. Vol. 2. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

7. 29-11-2019

Lecture: Definite & Indefinite articles

Reading: Czardybon, Adrian. 2017. *Definiteness in a Language without Articles: A Study on Polish*. Düsseldorf: düsseldorf university press. Intro + summary

8. 06-12-2019

Lecture: Relative clauses

Reading: Comrie, Bernard. 1998. "Rethinking the Typology of Relative Clauses." *Language Design* 1: 59–86.

Assignment: Mini-take-home exam I (like typical homework but about the previous 7 classes)

9. 13-12-2019

Lecture: Prominence of 'have' verb

Reading: Dahl, Östen. to appear. "Grammaticalization in the Languages of Europe." In *Grammaticalization from a Typological Perspective*, edited by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 79–96. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

10. 20-12-2019

Lecture: Word order

Reading: Dunn, Michael, Simon J Greenhill, Stephen C Levinson, and Russell D Gray. 2011. "Evolved Structure of Language Shows Lineage-Specific Trends in Word-Order Universals." *Nature*, 1–4.

11. 10-01-2020

Lecture: Polar questions

Reading: Siemund, Peter. 2001. "Interrogative Constructions." In *Language Typology and Language Universals*, 2:1010–1028. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

12. 17-01-2020

Lecture: Gender

Reading: Corbett, Greville G. 2006. "Gender, Grammatical." In *Encyclopedia of Languages & Linguistics (Second Edition)*, 749–756. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

13. 24-01-2020

No class

Reading: Mühlhäusler, Peter. 2001. "Personal Pronouns." In *Language Typology and Language Universals*, 1:741–47. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Assignment: Lyovin 6.6.3. Gender in Fijian

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14. 31-01-2020

Lecture: Pronouns (reading last week) & Negation

Reading: Miestamo, Matti. 2005. *Standard Negation: The Negation of Declarative Verbal Main Clauses in a Typological Perspective*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. Sect. 1.2

15. 07-02-2020

Lecture: review and evaluation

Assignment: Mini-take-home exam II (like typical homework but about classes 8-14)