

BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY
Department of Linguistics
LING 206 – Language Typology
Spring '20

Class hours: TTF 676	Classrooms: JF 334 JF 334 M 2171
Instructor: Metin Bağrıaçık	
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Office: JF 311	
Office hours: Thursday 10:00–12:00 & by appointment	

1 Course description

Languages exhibit astonishing diversity in their phonological, lexical and morphosyntactic composition. Nevertheless, we know from an important body of literature that the observed variation is both *constrained* and *principled*. It is constrained in that only a subset of logically possible grammars is actually attested in world's languages. In other words, the kinds of structures a natural language can have seem to be limited. It is principled in that the variation is by no means arbitrary/free; there are identifiable strong patterns/clusters in the observed variation. Linguists have formulated such patterns as *language universals*, i.e., generalizations over linguistic patterns that hold in all or most languages, independent of their historical and areal connections. Based on such common linguistic features/feature combinations, it is possible to classify languages into *types*. It is *language typology*—a subdiscipline of linguistics—that is concerned with such classification of languages as well as the ways in which languages differ from one another.

This course will focus primarily on morphosyntactic typology. In a nutshell, throughout the semester we will seek to answer:

- (a) What morphosyntactic structural properties are out there?
- (b) Which of these properties vary across languages, and which do not?
- (c) How do we explain patterns of variation?

By the end of the course, we will have gained understanding of how certain properties are realized in numerous languages, what typological features are common cross-linguistically, and what the implicational relationships are between such traits.

2 Prerequisite

LING 101 or instructor's consent. If you are in doubt, please contact me before enrolling.

3 Course requirements

3.1 Participation

You are all expected to attend the classes. If you expect to miss a class, please inform me in advance. Please do come to each class prepared, i.e., having done the reading and/or assigned work (if any), and participate in whatever we are doing in the class.

3.2 Language reports

Choose a language *in pairs* after the add-drop period—either from the list below or another one of your preference. You are expected to prepare *in pairs* two language reports on this language making use of reference grammars (and any other additional source if necessary).

The first report will be on morphological and the second report will be on syntactic traits. You will first briefly present the relevant criteria for making typological distinctions/classifications and then illustrate through data from the grammar how those criteria work in your language. Each report should be no longer than 6 pages, including interlinear-glossed examples. I will provide you with additional information on your reports in due time.

3.3 Problem sets & Midterm

There will be three individual take-home assignments and a short midterm.

4 Assessment and evaluation

Task	%
1. Attendance & Participation	15%
2. Assignments (5 × 3)	15%
3. Midterm	20%
4. First report	25%
5. Second report	25%

5 Grading standards

AA 100–90	CC 74.99–70
BA 89.99–85	DC 69.99–65
BB 84.99–80	DD 64.99–60
CB 79.99–75	F 59.99–0

6 Reading

None is required to buy. Available reading materials will be provided to you.

- Andrews, Avery D. 2001[1985]. Relative clauses. In *Language typology and syntactic description, volume II: complex constructions* (second edition), ed. by Timothy Shopen, 206–236. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Cinque, Guglielmo. 2005. Deriving Greenberg’s universal 20 and its exceptions. *Linguistic Inquiry* 36:315–332.
- Comrie, Bernard. 1989 [1981]. *Language universals and linguistic typology* (second edition). Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.
- Corbett, Greville G. 2010. Implicational hierarchies. In *The Oxford handbook of linguistic typology*, ed. by Jae Jung Song, 190–205. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Croft, William. 2003[1990]. *Typology and universals* (second edition). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Greenberg, Joseph H. 1966[1963]. Some universals of grammar with particular reference to the order of meaningful elements. In *Universals of language* (second edition), ed. by Joseph H. Greenberg, 73–113. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Jonsson, Niklas. 2001. Kin terms in grammar. In *Language typology and language universals, volume II*, ed. by Martin Haspelmath, Ekkehard König, Wulf Oesterreicher and Wolfgang Raible, 1203–1214. Berlin: de Gruyter.
- Keenan, Edward L. and Bernard Comrie. 1977. Noun phrase accessibility and universal grammar. *Linguistic Inquiry* 8:63–99.
- Kroeger, Paul R. 2005. *Analyzing grammar. An introduction*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press

- Matras, Yaron. 2007. The borrowability of grammatical categories. In *Grammatical borrowing in cross-linguistic perspective*, ed. by Yaron Matras and Jeanette Sakel, 31–74. Berlin: de Gruyter.
- Mithun, Marianne. 1984. The evolution of noun incorporation. *Language* 60: 847–894.
- Moravcsik, Edith A. 2013. *Introducing language typology*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Primus, Beatrice. 2010. Case-marking typology. In *The Oxford handbook of linguistic typology*, ed. by Jae Jung Song, 303–321. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- Schahter, Paul and Timothy Shopen. 2001[1985]. Parts-of-speech systems. In *Language typology and syntactic description, volume I: clause structure* (second edition), ed. by Timothy Shopen, 1–60. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Velupillai, Viveka. 2012. *An introduction to linguistic typology*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins.
- Whaley, Lindsay J. 1997. *Introduction to typology. The unity and diversity of language*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

7 Academic integrity

Violating rules of academic integrity is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. All students are responsible for understanding and complying with the Higher Education Council's Student Code of Conduct (Yükseköğretim Kurumları Öğrenci Disiplin Yönetmeliği). You can see the relevant file here: http://www.boun.edu.tr/Assets/Documents/Content/Public/yonetmelikler_ic_tuzukler/yuksekogretim_kurumlari_ogrenci_disiplin_yonetmeligi.pdf (TR).

8 Detailed course overview

The following, somewhat ambitious, overview may be updated. Any changes will be announced during the classes and/or via e-mail.

Date	Topic	Assignment	Reading	Deadline
Week 1: Typology				
F:07/02	Syllabus overview & Which typology?		Whaley 1997:ch. 1	
Week 2: Universals				
T:11/02	Which universals?		Comrie 1989:§1.1; Whaley 1997:ch 3, §1	
F:14/02	Formulating universals -I-		Whaley 1997:ch 3, §1 (cont.); Moravcsik 2013: §1.2.1	
Week 3: Universals & Database				
T:18/02	Formulating universals -II-		Comrie 1989:§1.2; Croft 1990:§3.1–3.2	
F:21/02	Which database?	A1	Whaley 1997:ch. 3, §2	
Week 4: Why are there universals?				
T:25/02	Giving content to universals		Comrie 1989:§1.3; Whaley 1997:ch. 3, §3	Language choice
F:28/02	Giving content to universals		Moravcsik 2013:§7	A1

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Date	Topic	Assignment	Reading	Deadline
Week 5: Lexical typology				
T:03/03	Lexical typology		Moravcsik 2013:§2	
F:06/03	Kin terms in grammar		Jonsson 2001	
Week 6: Lexical categories/morphology				
T:10/03	The universality of lexical categories		Schachter & Shopen 2001:§0–1	
F:13/03	Morphological typology: preliminaries		Kroeger 2005:§2	
Week 7: Morphological typology				
T:17/03	Languages as morphological types		Whaley 1997:ch. 8	
F:20/03	Languages as morphological types	A2	Greenberg 1966:73–75, 92–96	
Week 8: Word order				
T:24/03	Constituent order (and its problems)		Whaley 1997:ch. 5; Greenberg 1966:76–92	
F:27/03	Constituent order (and its problems)		challenge reading: Cinque 2005:§1	
Week 9: Relative clauses				
T:31/03	Typology of relative clauses		Andrews 2001; skim: Keenan & Comrie 1977	A2
F:03/04	Midterm			
Week 10: Case & Agreement				
T:07/04	Case marking		Primus 2010	
F:10/04	Agreement		Whaley 1997:ch. 9	First report
Week 11: Valency				
T:14/04	Valency		Velupilai 2012:§9.2	
F:17/04	Noun incorporation	A3	Mithun 1984	
Week 12: Spring break				
W:22/04	no class			
F:24/04	no class			
Week 13: TAM				
T:28/04	Tense & Aspect & Mode		Whaley 1997:ch. 12	
F:01/05	Labor day: no class			
Week 14: Animacy, definiteness & hierarchies				
T:05/05	Aminacy & Definiteness effects		Whaley 1997:ch 10	A3
F:08/05	Hierarchies		Matras 2007 II Corbett 2010	
Week 15: Wrap-up				
W:12/05	Residual issues			
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F:22/05				second rep.

A: assignment.

9 Language list

1. **Ingush:** Nichols, Johanna. 2011. *Ingush Grammar*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. See <http://seyhan.library.boun.edu.tr/record=b1651470~S5>.
2. **Mavea:** Guérin, Valerie. 2011. *A grammar of Mavea: An Oceanic language of Vanuatu*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press. See <http://seyhan.library.boun.edu.tr/record=b1974515~S5>.
3. **Jamul Tiipai:** Amy, Miller. 2001. *A grammar of Jamul Tiipay*. Berlin: de Gruyter. See <http://seyhan.library.boun.edu.tr/record=b1949623~S5>.
4. **Mani:** Childs, G. Tucker. 2012. *A grammar of Mani*. Berlin: de Gruyter. See <http://seyhan.library.boun.edu.tr/record=b1937467~S5>.
5. **Yakkha:** Schackow, Diana. 2015. *A grammar of Yakkha*. Berlin: LSP. Available at <http://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/66>.
6. **Mauwake:** Berghall, Liisa. *A grammar of Mauwake*. Berlin: LSP. Available at <http://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/67>.
7. **Pite Saami:** Wilbur, Joshua. 2014. *A grammar of Pite Saami*. Berlin: LSP. Available at <http://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/17>.
8. **Pichi:** Yakpo, Kofi. 2019. *A grammar of Pichi*. Berlin: LSP. Available at <https://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/85>.
9. **Komnzo:** Döhler, Christian. 2018. *A grammar of Komnzo*. Berlin: LSP. Available at <https://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/212>.
10. **Palula:** Liljegren, Henrik. 2016. *A grammar of Palula*. Berlin: LSP. Available at <https://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/82>.
11. **Ik:** Schrock, Terrill. 2017. *The Ik language: Dictionary and grammar sketch*. Berlin: LSP. Available at <https://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/98>.
12. **Moloko:** Friesen, Dianne. 2017. *A grammar of Moloko*. Berlin: LSP. Available at <https://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/118>.
13. **Hinuq:** Forker, Diana. 2011. *A grammar of Hinuq*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
14. **Kham:** Watters, David E. 2002. *A grammar of Kham*. Cambridge. UK: CUP.
15. **Mongsen Ao:** Coupe, Alexander. R. 2007. *A grammar of Mongsen Ao*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
16. **Kayardild:** Evans, Nicholas. 1995. *A grammar of Kayardild*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
17. **Catalan:** Dols, Nicolau. 2006. *Catalan. A comprehensive grammar*. London: Routledge.
18. **Modern Welsh:** King, Gareth. 2003. *Modern Welsh. A comprehensive grammar*. London: Routledge.
19. **Hittite:** Hoffner, Harry A. 2008. *A grammar of the Hittite language: Reference grammar (Part 1)*. University Park, PA: Eisenbrauns.
20. **Koyra Chiini:** Heath, Jeffrey. 1999. *A grammar of Koyra Chiini - The Songhay of Timbuktu*. Berlin: e Gruyter.
21. **Kolyma Yukaghir:** Maslova, Elena. 2003. *A grammar of Kolyma Yukaghir*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
22. **Karbi:** Konnerth, Linda. 2015. *A grammar of Karbi*. Oregon: University of Oregon dissertation.
23. **MSA:** Ryding, Karin C. 2005. *A reference grammar of Modern Standard Arabic*. Cambridge: CUP.
24. **Toqabaqita:** Lichtenberk, Frantisek. 2008. *A grammar of Toqabaqita*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
25. **Lotha:** Acharya, K.P. 1983. *Lotha Grammar*. Manasagangotri: Central Institute of Indian Languages.
26. **Tariana:** Aikhenvald, Alexandra Y. 2003. *A grammar of Tariana, from Northwest Amazonia*. Cambridge: CUP.
27. **Xakas:** Anderson, Gregory D.S. 1998. *Xakas*. München: Lincom Europa.

28. **Tyvan:** Anderson, Gregory D. and K. David Harrison. 1999. *Tyvan*. München: Lincom Europa.
29. **Maori:** Bauer, Winfred. 1993. *Maori*. London: Routledge.
30. **Kunama:** Bender, Lionel M. 1996. *Kunama*. München: Lincom Europa.
31. **Punjabi:** Bhatia, Tej K. 1993. *Punjabi*. London: Routledge.
32. **Eastern Armenian:** Dum-Tragut, Jasmine. 2009. *Armenian: Modern Eastern Armenian*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
33. **Evenki:** Bulatova, Nadezdha and Lenore Grenoble. 1999. *Evenki*. München: Lincom Europa.
34. **Frisian:** Tiersma, Pieter Meijes. 1999. *Frisian reference grammar*. Dordrecht: Foris.
35. **Golin:** Bunn, Gordon. 1974. *Golin grammar*. Ukarumpa: Summer Institute of Linguistics.
36. **Meithei:** Chelliah, Shobhana L. 1997. *A Grammar of Meithei*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
37. **Central Alaskan Yupik:** Miyaoka, Osahito. 2012. *A grammar of Central Alaskan Yupik*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
38. **Kabardian:** Colarusso, John. 1999. *A Grammar of the Kabardian Language*. Calgary: University of Calgary Press.
39. **Kobon:** Davies, John. 1981. *Kobon*. Amsterdam: North-Holland.
40. **Tümpisa Shoshone:** Dayley, Jon P. 1989. *Tümpisa (Panamint) Shoshone grammar*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
41. **Limbu:** Driem, George van. 1987. *Grammar of Limbu*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
42. **Acehnese:** Durie, Mark. 1985. *A grammar of Acehnese on the basis of a dialect of North Aceh*. Dordrecht: Foris.
43. **Hup:** Epps, Patience. 2005. *A grammar of Hup*. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Virginia.
44. **Haida:** Enrico, John. 2003. *Haida Syntax*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
45. **West Greenlandic:** Fortescue, Michael. 1984. *West Greenlandic*. London: Croom Helm.
46. **Bonan:** Fried, Robert Wayne. 2010. *A grammar of Baoan Tu, a Mongolic language of northwest China*. Ph.D. Dissertation, State University of New York at Buffalo.
47. **Sinhala:** Chandralal, Dileep. 2010. *Sinhala*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
48. **Ute:** Givón, Talmy. 1980. *Ute reference grammar*. Ignacio, CO.: Ute Press, Southern Ute Tribe.
49. **Manchu:** Gorelova, Liliya M. 2002. *Manchu grammar*. Leiden: Brill.
50. **Moskona:** Gravelle-Karn, Gloria Jean. 2010. *A grammar of Moskona: An East Bird's Head language of West Papua, Indonesia*. Ph.D. Dissertation, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam.
51. **Burushaski:** Noboru, Yoshioka. 2012. *A reference grammar of Eastern Burushaski*. Tokyo: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.
52. **Lezgian:** Haspelmath, Martin. 1993. *A grammar of Lezgian*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
53. **Jamsay:** Heath, Jeffrey. 2008. *A grammar of Jamsay*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
54. **Qiang:** LaPolla, Randy J. and Chenglong Huang. 2003. *A grammar of Qiang with annotated texts and glossary*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
55. **Persian:** Mahootian, Shahrzad. 1997. *Persian*. London: Routledge.
56. **Khasi:** Nagaraja, K.S. 1985. *Khasi. A descriptive analysis*. Pune: Deccan College.
57. **Tinrin:** Osumi, Midori. 1995. *Tinrin Grammar*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
58. **Slave:** Rice, Keren. 1989. *A grammar of Slave (Dene)*. Berlin: de Gruyter.
59. **Yurok:** Robins, R.H. 1958. *The Yurok language, grammar, texts, lexicon*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
60. **Pashto:** Tegey, Habibullah and Barbara Robson. 1996. *Reference grammar of Pashto*. Washington: Center for Applied Linguistics.