



Summer term 2021
TUE 10-12 c.t.,
online

Linguistic Typology

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G(a), VIII/2, AAC, LING3 (2BA and KUWI)

In this introduction to Linguistic Typology we will look at human languages from a global perspective, including the West Germanic family which comprises both English and German. Our goal is to investigate the great morphological and syntactic diversity found among the languages of the world, as well as those linguistic properties that are shared by various, maybe even all, languages. Additional scenarios to be discussed are the spread of major world languages, but also the fate of much smaller, endangered linguistic communities, and language death. For this course, you should have a genuine interest in structural linguistics and the grammar of English and beyond.

Recommended preparation

Take a first look at the World Atlas of Language Structure (wals.info) and the Living Tongues Institute (livingtongues.org).

Whaley, Lindsay (1997) *Introduction to Typology: The Unity and Diversity of Language*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE;

Pereltsvaig, Asya (2020) *Languages of the World: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Learning objectives

The overarching aim of this course is a better understanding of human language types and an awareness of methodological issues when making generalisations about languages. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- outline the similarities (linguistic universals) and variation (linguistic diversity) found among the languages of the world, with respect to major structural parameters
- position the English language within these contexts
- explain the role of key conceptual notions such as animacy and linguistic economy
- conduct cross-linguistic comparisons and explain the structural patterns uncovered
- abstract and synthesize general properties of language from empirical data and language-specific knowledge

Major goals:

- in-depth grasp of language structure, enhanced critical thinking, reading, writing, active listening and discussion skills

SEMESTERAPPARAT: UL shelf GW/GSW 105

Activity level

2 hours weekly seminar (or online equivalent) + min. 2 hours weekly preparation + exam

Regular active attendance: readings, discussions, tasks, group work. For confirmation of regular attendance max. 3 absences offline; or course completion online. **Check your 'course completion status' in Moodle.**

Oral exams: 20 minutes, potentially covering all topics

Term papers

All papers should include an empirical analysis. The length and extent of the analysis will depend on the research question. More information in Moodle and class.

Linguistics Style Sheet: https://www.uni-due.de/anglistik/linguistics/academicpapers_and_exams.shtml

Contact/office hours: http://www.uni-due.de/anglistik/linguistics/linguistics3/hernandez_nuria

Tentative Syllabus, alterations possible

presentation topics in blue

Week	Date	Topic	Prepare before the session
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W 1	April 13	Meet and greet (synchronous) Syllabus, Moodle, exams Motivations, expectations Typology Teams, presentations Free your mind: overcoming our own constructs	Take a first look at the preparatory readings Bring in your expectations for this course Prepare an ICEBREAKER (see Moodle)
W 2	April 20	Intro to linguistic typology (synchronous) 'type', 'typology', great names and views research questions, 'universals' and 'diversity' ways of classifying languages	Group task (Moodle) Recommended: Hawkins (1988: 3-23); Greenberg (1966); Pereltsvaig (2012: 13–38)
W 3	April 27	Genetic perspective (tba) Origins of human language, language families Joseph Greenberg	Video: Before Babel (Moodle) Read: Greenberg (1966)
W 4	May 04	Structural perspective (synchronous) Data and tools Atlases, glossing rules, structural comparability(?)	Read: LeipzigGlossingRules.pdf
W 5	May 11	Cognitive perspective (tba) The Sapir Whorf Hypothesis and colour terms	Find out about the Sapir-Whorf-Hypothesis
W 6	May 18	Documentary: The Linguists Number systems	Moodle
W 7	May 25	Pentecost	
W 8	June 01	Word order (tba)	<i>tba</i>
W 9	June 08	Morphemes (tba)	<i>tba</i>
W 10	June 15	Morphological Typology (tba)	<i>tba</i>
W 11	June 22	Nouns (tba)	<i>tba</i>
W 12	June 29	Negation (tba)	<i>tba</i>
W 13	July 06	Angloversals and Vernacular universals (tba)	<i>tba</i>
W 14	July 13	Evaluation and wrap-up	Bring in final questions
W 15	July 20	oral examination period	