

Typology: Analyzing Linguistic Diversity across Languages of the World

Sommer Semester 2017

Module: Variation, Evolution, and Change

Type: Hauptseminar

Room: Seminarraum 001, VG Wilhelmstraße 19

Duration: 19.04.2017 - 26.07.2017

Time: Wednesday 14-16 c.t.

Webpage: http://www.christianbentz.de/teaching_typo2017.html

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1 Project Assignment

1.1 Phonetics/Phonology

- Project 1: Test the following hypothesis: If a language does *not* have fricatives, then it is more likely to be spoken in mainland Australia than outside of it.

Alicja Kawecka, Evangelos Filippidis, Amelie Bissinger, Zachary Bennett (Session 07: 31.05.2017)

- Project 2: Test the following hypothesis: Languages using clicks (no para-linguistic usage) have generally bigger sound inventories than languages not using clicks.

Thora Daneyko (Session 07: 31.05.2017)

1.2 Morphology

- Project 4: Is there a trade-off between morphological marking and usage of tones? Such that languages that extensively use tonal marking tend to have less morphological markers?

Chih-Chun Chang (Session 08: 14.06.2017)

Svea-Kristin Klaus (Session 08: 14.06.2017)

- Project 5: Test the hypothesis that number neutral languages tend to have numeral classifiers instead (see Klammer, under review: p.22).

Xiang Ji (Session 08: 14.06.2017)

- Project 6: Test Greenberg's Universal 27: "If a language is exclusively suffixing, it is postpositional; if it is exclusively prefixing, it is prepositional."

Nidhal Mekki (Session 09: 21.06.2017)

Cressida Chesworth (Session 09: 21.06.2017)

Micayla Crawley (Session 11: 12.07.2017)

1.3 Lexicon

- Project 7: Do languages with more speakers (bigger population size) have more/less loanwords than languages with fewer speakers?

Jekatarina Kaparina, Stephanie Samson (Session 10: 28.06.2017)

- Project 8: Is the status of a language (national, widely used, extinct, etc.) associated with the number of basic color terms in a language?

Hizniye Isabella Boga (Session 11: 12.07.2017)

1.4 Word Order

- Project 10: Test Greenberg's Universal 41: "If in a language the verb follows both the nominal subject and nominal object as the dominant order, the language almost always has a case system."
Fabio Maion, Safer Mian (Session 12: 26.07.2017)

1.5 Other

- Project 12: Give an estimation (or range of estimations) of how many languages have been spoken in the world until today (including living languages). Tipp: First try to get estimations for the earliest date of appearance of human language (this is highly controversial) from the literature, then try to get estimations of the birth death/rate of languages.
Stacie Boswell (Session 12: 26.07.2017)

2 References

Bickerton, Derek (2016). *Roots of language*. Classics in Linguistics 3, Language Science Press.

Greenberg, Joseph H. (1963). Some universals of language with particular reference to the order of meaningful elements. In: J. H. Greenberg (ed.), *Universals of Language*. London: MIT Press.

Klamer, Marian (under review). Typology and grammaticalization in the Papuan languages of Timor, Alor and Pantar. To appear in: Narrog, Heiko & Prashant Pardeshi (eds.), *Grammaticalization from a typological perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.