

Ling/Anth 741
Field Methods in Linguistic Description
Ling Line # 18768 /Anth Line # 10957

Spring 2004

Time: T Th 4:00-5:20 p.m.

Place: Blake 418

Instructor: Prof. Arianne M. Dwyer
Fraser Hall 614

E-mail: anthlinguist@ku.edu
Telephone: 864-2649

Office Hours: T 9:30-11 AM, Th 2:30-4:00 pm and by appointment.

Consultant: Dr. Xianzhen Wang
Fraser Hall 614 & Blake 421

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Telephone: 864-2649

Office Hours: by appointment.

Course description

This is an apprenticeship in the techniques of eliciting & analysing linguistic data on an unknown language. This semester's focus will be on Monguor with Dr. Xianzhen Wang. Through a variety of elicitation methods, we will focus on analysis in phonetics, phonology, and learn as much about the grammar of the language as we possibly can, including affixation morphology.

Course Goals

- transcription practice: IPA/orthographic, broad/narrow
- elicitation and interviewing techniques for grammatical discovery
- description and analysis: phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, sociolinguistic
- metadata recordkeeping
- familiarity with techniques and computing tools for linguistic field data

Requirements

1. Attend class regularly
2. Lead elicitation on a rotating basis (ca. every other week)

Those who elicited during the previous class will transcribe during the next class. I will send elicitors an e-mail critique after each elicitation. On Thursdays, we will discuss what to cover in the following week: topics and different elicitation techniques.

3. Meet independently (outside of class) with Dr. Wang for one hour per week, to:
 - a. deepen your understanding of relevant topics for that week
 - b. elicit and record a short narrative discourse sample (10-20 utterances), with interlinear glossing and translation, and distribute to class. (TBA: **late April**)
4. Write two short papers and one long paper [due dates in square brackets]:
 - a. [short, 2 parts] An overview of Minhe Monguor phonetics/phonology (2 versions):
 - i. For linguists (like a reference grammar): IPA, phonemes, allophones **[Feb 19]**
 - ii. For communities (e.g. lang. learning materials): no jargon **[Feb 26]**
 - b. [short, 1 part] A brief description of MM morphology **[Apr 1]**
 - c. [long, 4 parts] An in-depth analysis of one aspect of MM phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, lexicology, or discourse
 - i. abstract **[April 8]**

The abstract should be no longer than one page. It should state the problem to be addressed, and

outline the theoretical issues involved. Data and references may be appended on a second page.

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| ii. Rough draft | | [May 6 th or earlier] |
| iii. Oral report | 10% | [May 4 th or 6 th] |
| iv. Written report | 30% | [May 17, 5 PM Anth office] |

(choose ONE of two styles: reference grammar or linguistics paper (the latter should be theoretically informed, with analysis and discussion of relevant literature).

The style for the paper and references should follow the style guidelines for *Language* as published in the *LSA Bulletin*.

Grading:

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| 1. Class participation incl. Elicitation | 20% | |
| 2. Phonetics/Phonology paper (2 versions: Feb) | 10%+10% | |
| 3. Morphology paper | 10% | |
| 4. Indep. Narrative Discourse elicitation | 10% | |
| 5. Final project | (idea, outline, oral report, written report) | |
| a. Abstract (Apr 1) | -- | |
| b. Rough draft (May 6) | -- | |
| c. Oral report (May 11 or 13) | 10% | |
| d. Written report | (May 17) | 30% |

Required Texts. [both are on Reserve at Watson Library.]

Vaux, Bert and Justin Cooper. 1999. *Linguistic Fieldwork*. Lincom Europa.

Payne, Thomas. 1997. *Describing Morphosyntax*. Cambridge.

Supplemental Readings (as listed below and online)

Mithun, Marianne. 2001. Who Shapes the Record: the Speaker and the Linguist. In: Newman, Paul and Martha Ratliff. *Linguistic Fieldwork*. Cambridge. pp. 34-54.

Some **course information will be online** at: <http://courseware.ku.edu/>. You will need a KU e-mail account to access this system. (You can get this, as well as help using the online course program (Blackboard) from links on the above page.)

Schedule

Note: The amount of time we spend on each level of linguistic analysis is largely dependent on the class. Therefore, the syllabus is relatively skeletal. You should, however, proceed through the relevant methodology chapters in Vaux and Cooper throughout the term, while using Payne (as well as the online resources) as as-needed references during the second half of the semester.

Beginning in Week 2, we will attempt to generally follow the schedule:

- Tuesdays: data analysis / summarizing (25 mins); elicitation (25 mins); theory (25 mins)
- Thursdays: elicitation (40 mins), analysis (20 mins) planning for next session (20 min.)

I. Introduction

Week 1 Orientation in Methodology and the Ethnolinguistic Setting

Assignments for next class: Do KUCR online HSRC consent tutorial.
Read Vaux&Cooper Ch 1., Introduction
Skim (do not read) Schram excerpt - dig out relevant info

Schram, Louis M.J. 1954. "The Land in which the Monguors live" and "The Monguors" in: *The Monguors of the Kansu-Tibetan Frontier: Their Origin History, and Social Organization*. Vols 1-3. Philadelphia: Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, New Series 44/1: 17-37.

Readings: Vaux, Ch 2, Transcription
Dimmendaal, Places and people: field sites and informants [Newman & Ratliff Ch. 3: 55-75] (Online)

Feb 24 Prosody: stress, pitch, reduplication
Readings: V&C Ch 8, Prosodic Phonology

Week 6 V. Morphology

Mar 4 Nominal Morphology cont'd
Readings: Payne Ch. 2 Morphological typology

Mar 11 Verbal Morphology: Paradigms
Readings: V&C Ch 10, Verbal Morphology

Mar 18 reschedule class?
3.30 PM (TBA) "How the study of endangered languages will revolutionize linguistics." Dr. Douglas Whalen, President, Endangered Language Fund (Yale). Reception to follow.

☿ Spring Break March 20-28 ☿

April 1 Constituent Order: Utterance, NP, VP
Readings: Payne Ch. 4 Constituent order typology
Brief paper on MM morphology due today!

Dwyer

April 8 Within the clause: noun phrases: case and number ***project abstracts due today!***
Readings: Payne Ch 5, Noun and NP operations
Mithun, Who shapes the record: the speaker and the linguist [Newman & Ratliff Ch. 2: 34-54]
 (Online)

Week 11

April 13 ***no class***

April 15 Negation; Quantifiers
Readings: V&C Ch 12, Syntax II
 cf. Payne Ch 10.2 Negation

Week 12

April 20 Verb phrases: Tense/aspect/mode, esp. evidentiality
Readings: Payne Ch 9, Voice and valence adjusting operations

April 22 Verb complements
Readings: Payne Ch 11, Clause combinations

Week 13

April 27 Pragmatics: learning the lingo (routine greetings and leavetakings); discourse
 markers
Readings: V&C Ch. 13, Pragmatics

April 29 Sociolinguistics and Dialectology
Readings: V&C Ch. 14, Sociolinguistics and Dialectology
 OPTIONAL: Dorian, Surprises in Sutherland: linguistic variability amidst social
 uniformity [N&R Ch 6: 133-151] (Online)

Week 14

May 4 **In-Class presentations (short papers)**

May 6 **In-Class presentations (short papers)**

Week 15

May 11 Revisiting topics raised by presentations (elicitation interview)
May 13 Revisiting topics raised by presentations (elicitation interview)
 Final compilation of a class database (To be discussed).

May 17 (Mon) *Written projects due by 5 PM* generally 10-20 pp. double-spaced, 12 pt. font

Note: if you have a disability requiring accomodation in order for you to complete the requirements for the class, please come and see me as early as possible in the term.