

Course Description: Practice in language analysis based on elicited data from a native speaker of a foreign language, emphasizing procedures and techniques.

Prerequisites: LIN 228H, 229H, 231H, 232H, LIN332. LIN331

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Office hours: Mon. 2:00-3:00pm; Thurs. 11:00 am-12 noon (or by appointment)

Language Consultant: Terry Spanish

Language: Nishnaabemwin

Goals of the Course: The purpose of this course is for you to learn to apply the linguistic knowledge that you have gained from previous linguistics courses to the collecting and analysing of raw data, i.e. by working with a speaker of a language. You will also learn through experience, class discussion, and feedback from both your classmates and me how to rethink your data and analysis, ensuring the best possible analysis and most reliable data. Even though we will be working with only one language in the course, we will constantly be discussing a wide variety of linguistic issues, since we will not know in advance whether or not they pertain to the language. For this reason, you should not use library material to supplement your knowledge of the language, unless I give you permission.

You will also learn how to tape, write up and organize your data both on paper and in a computer database of some sort.

We will also invite graduate students who are using fieldwork as part of their research to come in and speak about the process.

I will need to know which days you can make it so please check your schedules and bring a copy to give me next Wed.

Textbooks which will be available in the department for you to consult:

Newman, P. and M. Ratliff. 2001. *Linguistic Fieldwork*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Payne, T. E. 1997. *Describing Morphosyntax: A Guide for Field Linguists*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

JAL 401/1145

Evaluation:

Database	15%
3 reports	45%
Group Presentation	15%
Final Paper	25%

Why Might You Find Yourself Doing Fieldwork?

- You might be hired as a research assistant
- You might be doing some linguistic research and you want to verify or extend your knowledge of something which you read in the literature.
- You might be doing primary linguistic research on a topic,
- You might be doing linguistic research towards language maintenance and revitalization.

How Do You Find a Consultant?

Locating:

- through cultural organizations
- other linguists who work on that language
- agencies in a community where the language is spoken
- advertisements in location where speakers of that language may visit

Approaching:

- explain who you are and a little about what type of research you do. Don't make it overly complicated or pompous. Sound enthusiastic.
- ascertain that they indeed speak the language (or dialect) that you are interested in.
- explain that you are not trying to learn the language but to find out facts about it.
- explain the nature of the work, e.g. translating, telling a story
- early on, let them know that you will be paying them for their time, but also ensure that they realize this is not a full time job but only an hour or two.
- Don't commit in advance for a large amount of hours until you have worked with them for a bit and have an idea as to how your working relationship is.
- Try to get them to come to a quiet spot to work (e.g. university, hotel, cultural centre) but if this is not feasible, work in their home but ask in advance that there be as little noise as possible.

Make sure you are aware of research policies applying to research on Human Subjects which may pertain to your work.

http://www.rir.utoronto.ca/ethics_hshome.html

Ethics: A big subject in recent years. Human Subjects