Linguistics 407/507
Anthropology 407

Fall 2001
Field Techniques
and the
Analysis of Natural Language

Texts: None
   Although there are no texts for this course, there exists material that
pertains to the conduct of field work. You may consult it as you want. Some
titles are provided below:

Bouquiaux, Luc & Jacqueline M. C. Thomas (trans. James Roberts). 1992.
        Studying and Describing Unwritten Languages. Dallas: Summer
        Institute of Linguistics.
Burling, Robbins. 1984. *Learning a Field Language*. Ann Arbor: University
        of Michigan Press.   P53 .B87 1984
Dixon, R. M. W. 1983. *Searching for Aboriginal Languages: Memoirs of a
        Field Worker*. New York: University of Queensland Press.
                                                PL7091 .Q4 D59 1983
Gudschinsky, Sarah Caroline. 1967. *How to Learn an Unwritten Language*.
        New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.   P51 .G75
Hall, Robert A., Jr. 1947. *Hungarian phonemes*. In Pike 1947, pp. 191-94.
Lounsbury, Floyd G. 1953. Field techniques and techniques in linguistics. In
        Anthropology Today: Selections, ed. by Sol Tax. Chicago:
        University of Chicago Press.   GN4 .I52 1952ac
Nida, Eugene A. 1981. Informants or colleagues? In *A Festschrift for the
        Native Speaker*, ed. Florian Coulmas. The Hague: Mouton
        Publishers.   P128 .I53 F4
Paul, Benjamin D. 1953. Interview techniques and field relationships. In
        Anthropology Today: Selections, ed. by Sol Tax. Chicago: Chicago
        University Press.   GN4 .I52 1952ac
Payne, Thomas E. 1997. *Describing Morphosyntax: A guide for field
        linguists*. New York: Cambridge University Press.   P241 .P39 1997
Pike, Kenneth L. 1947. *Phonemics: A Technique for Reducing Language to
        Writing*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. [pp. 177-180 'A
        detailed routine technical statement.   P219 .P54
Samarin, William J. 1967. *Field Linguistics: A Guide to Linguistic Field
        Work*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.   P128 .F5 .S27
Vaux, Bert & Justin Cooper. 1999. *Introduction to Linguistic Field Methods*.
        Muenchen: Lincom Europa.   P128 .F53 V37 1999

Basis for grading:

   First paper on the phonetics and phonology of the language. The model is the one Pike calls the 'detailed routine technical statement'. Hall's description of Hungarian provides an example of what you should include. Copies of both these will be provided you. Due approximately six-eight weeks after the course begins.   **40%**

   Second paper which outlines the semantic and grammatical organization of the simple sentence of the language. Here, if time permits, you may select for emphasis (in consultation with the instructor) an aspect of the semantics and syntax/morphology which is most interesting to you. Due the last day of the examination period.   **50%**

   You will benefit from this course by engaging in active elicitation and analysis, and the final 10% of your grade is dependent upon your presence and participation in the collection of language data.   **10%**
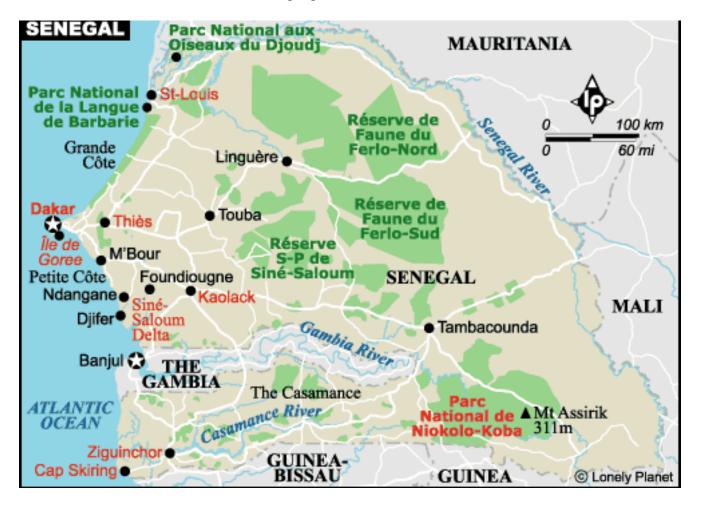
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A short description of LING 407/507 and ANTH 407.
This course concentrates on the collection of language data and their analysis. In the past, Igbo, Thai, Gujarati, Malay, Korean, Farsi, Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, Tagalog (Pilipino), Amharic, Khmer, Telugu, Ilokano, Ilongo (Hiligaynon), Yogad, Kapampangan, Pangasinan, Quiche (with Professor Gildea), Kinaray-a, Luo (with Professor Kemmer), Akawaio, and Wolof have been studied. I anticipate that the language studied this year will be the west African language, Pulaar. It is a close relative of Wolof. Both are members of the Niger-Congo family of languages. The sub-grouping (from *Ethnologue*) for Pulaar goes: Niger-Congo -> Atlantic-Congo -> Atlantic -> Northern -> Senegambian -> Fula-Wolof -> Fulani -> Western. For Wolof, it is Niger-Congo -> Atlantic-Congo -> Atlantic -> Northern -> Senegambian -> Fula-Wolof -> Wolof. Pulaar is spoken in Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal. The largest number of speakers is in Senegal, where Pulaar is one of the national languages. The "national" languages of

Senegal are: Jola-Fogny, Malinke, Mandinka, Pulaar, Serere-Sine, Soninke, and Wolof. The "official" language is French.

The course assumes that the student has some knowledge of linguistics; a minimum of Linguistics 300 or its equivalent is required, and the student should be familiar with the principles of phonetics (though not necessarily with its practical use), phonology, morphology, and syntax. In addition, it will be to the student's advantage to have had Linguistics 402/502 (Syntax and Semantics) or to be taking it concurrently with this course. Although a background in linguistics is necessary, I will value clear prose descriptions of the data and their patterns more highly than the use of any notational formalisms which you may know.

The first part of the course concentrates upon practical phonetic training in the target language with the goal of producing a short description of its sounds (a phonology). In the second portion, we will collect data on the sentence patterns and grammatical/semantic categories that characterize the language. Class activity will focus on the collection of data and their interpretation. There will be an occasional additional meeting to discuss problems and directions for elicitation.

The practical matter of recording language data and the management of it will be discussed. Personal preferences differ, but a common software to maintain your data base has been developed by the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Called "Shoebox", it is available from this url (http://www.sil.org/computing/shoebox.html) in versions for the pc and the Macintosh.

As our work progresses, I will distribute copies of the elicited material for your reference. This will represent my own notes; it is for your reference only, and you are not bound to base your descriptions (papers) on these data. Additionally, I will place weekly updates of the material on the Macintosh in the computing lab of the Department of Linguistics. This may ultimately make it more convenient to write your papers. In any case, your papers should be based **only** on data that originate in this course. **In no case**, should you search for or consult material published on our language.

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