Ling 795 Seminar: Corpus-based typology
San Diego State University
Schedule # 22337
Fall 2022
We 4:00pm–6:40pm
PSFA-437

Linguistic typology is the study of cross-linguistic variation. Modern typology has evolved past a search for linguistic ‘types’ to broader questions about linguistic structures: as Bickel (2013) puts it, “What’s where why?” This has led to interest in exploring new sources of data, including large multi-lingual text databases. This allows us to consider the typological consequences of both inter- and intra-linguistic variation. We will begin the semester by reading Greenberg's (1966) seminary paper on word order typology followed by some of the corpus-based developments from that work. Then, based on issues that come up during class discussion, we will dig into the primary literature on other key topics corpus-based typology.

Instructor

Prof. Rob Malouf
Website: malouf.sdsu.edu
Email: rmalouf@sdsu.edu
Office hours: Tu Th 1:00–2:00 or by appointment
Real office: SHW 244
Zoom office: SDSU.zoom.us/j/88663149131

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. Please let me know if you would prefer an alternate name and/or gender pronoun.

Student Learning Outcomes

The goals of this course are for participants to gain experience in:

• understanding current theoretical approaches to typology using multi-lingual databases,

• reading and evaluating the primary literature,

• presenting and discussing research material with peers,
• identifying open research questions,
• applying descriptive and theoretical concepts to novel linguistic data.

Through the term, participants (including auditors!) will present and discuss articles from the reading list, which cover a number of aspects of constructional change.

Course Materials

There is no textbook for this course. Readings for each will be available through the library or posted on the class Canvas site. The specific readings will depend on the interests of the participants.

Course Design

Each week, we will discuss one or more papers from the research literature on corpus-based typology. We will begin by looking at word order, a central area of typological interest since Greenberg (1961):


• Hee-Soo Choi, Bruno Guillaume, Karën Fort (2021). Corpus-based language universals analysis using universal dependencies. *SyntaxFest Quasy 2021*
After this, we will choose additional topics to explore based on the interests of the group. We'll all take turns leading the discussions, but everyone should be sure to read the papers in advance. To help focus on what's most relevant, I will give you discussion questions to keep in mind while you are reading.

In addition to leading and participating in discussions, students taking the class for a grade will also prepare a final research project. The final grade will be based on class participation, discussion questions, and on the final project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project draft</th>
<th>Dec 10</th>
<th>20%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>Dec 17</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class presentations</td>
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</tbody>
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**Final reading list**

- **Introduction**
  - Week 1 (8/24)

- **Word order typology**
  - Week 2 (8/31)
  - Week 3 (9/7)
  - Week 4 (9/14)


- Week 5 (9/21)


- Speech rate

  - Week 6 (9/28)


- Phonology

  - Week 7 (10/5)


**Lexical semantics**

- **Week 8 (10/12)**
  
  
  

- **Week 9 (10/19)**


- **Week 10 (10/26)**


  Bradford, Laurestine, Thomas, Guillaume, and Xu, Yang (2022). Communicative need modulates lexical precision across semantic domains: A domain-level ac-

• Discourse
  
  – Week 11 (11/2)
  
  – Week 12 (11/9)
  
  – Week 13 (11/16)
  
  – Week 14 (11/30)

Revised: December 7, 2022