

Ling/Anth 588

Linguistic Elicitation and Documentation

Aug 23, 2010

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Mondays 4:00-6:30, Chemistry 126

What it's about:

This class gives you the chance to do real hands-on linguistics with a native speaker of an unfamiliar language.

- Goals:
- 1) Learn elicitation techniques
 - 2) Learn ethics of field work
 - 3) Develop linguistic analytical skills
 - 4) Develop an initial grammatical description of our target language

Prerequisite:

At least one graduate-level course in linguistics.

Materials:

Buy: a 3-ring binder to put your notes in, and lined paper to take notes on. I prefer a pad, which is easier to carry around, and then I 3-hole punch it to put it in my binder.

If you would like to use your own CompactFlash card for recording, that's fine too; they're not too expensive. But we have one that we can use for the class, so this is definitely not necessary.

NB: *There is a fee attached to this course:* \$84 per student, which will be billed to your bursar's account by the university. This (collectively) pays for our consultant.

Language and Consultant: (95% finalized). We will (hopefully) be working with Maay Maay (Maay, Mai Mai, Af-Maay, Af-Maay Tiri, Af-May, Af-Maymay, Rahanween, Rahanweyn, according to the Ethnologue, language code YMM), an East Cushitic language of Somalia.

Consultant: Mr. Abdi Aden Abdi, the executive director of the Somali Bantu Association of Tucson.

Requirements:

15% Lead three elicitation sessions, two in-class, one on your own.

— 9%: submit plan for session **7 days before** each (3% each)

— 6%: conducting sessions appropriately (2% each)

20% Data management for your elicitation session:

a) Post the recording of your session to D2L (in a low-density format).

b) Write up transcriptions, glosses and translations of the data from all three elicitation sessions (in Word)

- c) Enter the transcribed data into FieldWorks database on the Lingdata computer (accessible through the SBS network)
- d) Upload your Word document to the d2l site.
(All of this is due: **7 days after** your elicitation sessions — those weeks will be a *LOT* of work)
- 30% 2 evaluations of your complete field notes, 15% each:
(Due: Oct 26th and Dec 6th)
- 15% Final grammatical sketch project (involves working independently with consultant)
(Due Dec 6th, but can be turned in earlier)
- 15% **10 hours of volunteer work** with the Somali Bantu Association. Possible duties: homework tutoring for secondary or postsecondary students, ESL tutoring, or whatever work they have available that you prefer to do.

Somali Bantu Association of Tucson
www.sbata.org
4500 E. Speedway, Suite 7
Tucson, AZ 85712
(520)881-4373

Individual time with consultant:

You can spend a **maximum** 1 hour of one-on-one interview time with Mr. Abdi over the course of the semester. You **must** interview him one-on-one at least once, minimum 30 minutes. More than once is fine, up to the 1 hour limit. You'll need to schedule these with him early on. It is VERY VERY IMPORTANT that his participation in our research not be a burden to him. That means that if your scheduling with him happens late, or meetings get cancelled or rescheduled, or anything like that, it had better be because it was more convenient for *him*, not because of your leaving it till the last minute.

Books:

Bowern, Claire. (2008) Linguistic Fieldwork: A Practical Guide. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan .

Schedule (first pass):

Aug 23 Assignment: Do CITI test, read chapters 1, 2 and 3 of Bower's book

Arizona IRB URL:

<http://orcr.vpr.arizona.edu/irb>

CITI certification URL:

<https://www.citiprogram.org/Default.asp?>

Aug 30 Session procedures, plan of topics, scheduling individuals. Guest lecture: Alex Trueman

Assignment: Read the following (avail on d2l):

Holton, Gary. 2009. Relatively Ethical: A Comparison of Linguistic Research Paradigms in Alaska and Indonesia. Language Documentation and Conservation. Vol. 3, No. 2:161-175

Rice, Keren . 2006. Ethical issues in linguistic fieldwork: An overview. Journal of Academic Ethics 4:123-155.x

Sept 13 Guest lecture: Alex Trueman, Muriel Fisher. Preparatory training on recorder.

Assignment: Read chapters 4 and 5 of Bower's book.

Sept 20 First session with Mr. Abdi: learn about the language, him, the Somali Bantu. Greetings, politeness words/phrases. Some basic wordlist/phrase elicitation by Heidi. Identifying basic phonemic contrasts, work on (narrow) phonetic transcription of the language.

Assignment: Read rest of Bower's book

Sept 27 _____

Continued wordlist and phrase elicitation. Identifying basic phonemic contrasts, work on (narrow) phonetic transcription of the language.

Oct 4 _____

Wordlist and phrase elicitation. Maybe identifying some phonological processes. Getting closer to (narrow) phonetic transcription of the language. Basic word order in TP and DP. Intransitive, transitive, ditransitive sentences.

Oct 11 _____

Morphology & Syntax: Basic inflection -- verbal and nominal (agreement, tense, mood, aspect, case, gender, number). Pronouns.

Oct 18 _____

Matrix vs. embedded clauses (both declarative and yes/no questions). Wh-questions. Negation. Conditionals.

Oct 25 _____

Syntax: arguments vs. adjuncts -- word order possibilities, extraction of, extraction from. Purpose-clauses, raising, control.

Nov 1 _____

Morphosyntax: Valence-changing. Passives, causatives, middles, reflexives. Benefactives? Conditions A and B/obviation.

Nov 8: _____

Morphology: Word-formation processes -- derivation, compounding. Verbal and adjectival participles? Verbal nouns. Adjectival inflection.

Nov 15 _____

Noun phrases: Adjectival, PP, and relative modification, with and without possessives. Alienable/inalienable possession. *One*-constructions (NP ellipsis). Noun phrases: determiners and quantifiers. Cardinal and ordinal numbers. Weak/strong quantification and basic clausal syntax.

Nov 22 _____

Comparatives (adjectival), superlatives. Nominal and verbal comparison. Scope: Generics, definites, specifics and indefinites (opaque contexts). Quantifiers and negation. Deletion phenomena: Coordination, ellipsis, sluicing, swiping, gapping... Parasitic gaps? ACD? Comparative subdeletion?

Nov 29 _____

Narrative elicitation (Frog story?). Intonation.

Dec 6: Wrap-up discussion, plans for publication