

Ling 117r

Linguistic Field Methods

February 7, 2005

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Boylston 303, Monday 3-6 pm

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) Maybe learn something new and unknown about our target language

Prerequisite:

Minimally intro linguistics. Preferably more, esp. given the well-studied nature of the language and our consultant.

Requirements:

- 15% Lead at least one elicitation session
(possibly more depending on how many people enroll)
- 15% Transcribe and post the audio recording of that/those elicitation session(s)
- 15% 2 evaluations of your complete field notes, one March 14th, the other May 2nd
- 10% 1 Official Question/week.
- 10% Project proposal
(Due at the latest by April 4th)
- 35% Final project (involves working independently with consultant)
(Due May 2nd)

Individual time with consultant:

Consultant: Santeri Palviainen *email* palviain@fas.harvard.edu

There will be a fixed maximum number of hours (probably 5) of interview time you can spend with Santeri over the course of the semester. You have to interview him at least once. More than once is of course fine, up to the 5 hour limit. **NO MORE THAN TWO HOURS CAN BE IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF CLASSES....**and Santeri can't spend more than 6 hours being interviewed in a given week...so you'll want to sign up for interview slots early and often.

Santeri will provide us with a schedule with available times, which you will sign up for.

Books:

Karlsson, Fred. (1999) *Finnish: An Essential Grammar*. Routledge
Vaux, Bert and Justin Cooper. (2003). *Introduction to Linguistic Field Methods*. Lincom.

Readings:

Every week, I will assign a theoretical/professional article for us to read about something related to the topic we'll be working on for that week. I'll present it for the class. The elicitor for that week will meet with me beforehand to talk about the session and what direction the questions might go, and possibly about any questions raised by the article.

Feb 21st President's day holiday -- no class.

March 26-April 3 -- Spring break

- Week 1 Organization, Ethics, Techniques. Interview Santeri. Word list. Sounds of Finnish. (Chapt. 1-2 of Karlsson, Chapt. 1-2 of Vaux & Cooper)
- Week 2 Simple sentences, more on sounds of Finnish. (Chapt. 7 of Karlsson, Chapt. 11 of Vaux and Cooper)
- Week 3 Verb morphology (Chapt. 10 of Vaux and Cooper, Chapt. 6 of Karlsson)
- Week 4 More verb morphology (Chapts. 14-18 of Karlsson)
- Week 5 Noun morphology (Chapter 9 of Vaux and Cooper, Chapt. 5 of Karlsson)
- Week 6 More noun morphology (Chapts. 8-11 of Karlsson)
- Week 7 Phonological & morphophonological questions (Chapt. 7-8 of Vaux & Cooper, chapter 2 & 4 of Karlsson)
- Week 8 Complement clauses, infinitivals, and relative clauses. Anaphora
- Week 9 Wh-movement, scope, focus, gaps...
- Week 10 Argument structure of Finnish (& derivational verb morphology)
- Week 11 Specific topics of interest: Negation in Finnish? Coordination? Ellipsis?
- Week 12 Other Elicitation techniques: Picture elicitation, Story Elicitation.
- Week 13 Individual time with NSC for projects