Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Spring 2015

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Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 4:00 – 5:00 (and by appointment)

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SSA 4930 Section 045B/ LIN 4930 Section 0913/ LIN 6932 Section 02D8

Methods in language documentation

Time: 7th period (1:55 - 2:45)

Location: Little Hall 205

Course objectives

David Nathan writes "language documentation, as a new field operating in a largely digital environment, can aspire to exploit all the capabilities of new technologies." The aim of this course is to equip students with skills to exploit these technologies. Students will learn about choosing appropriate audio and video recording tools and how to get the best results from the ones they choose. They will also learn to process video and audio recording using ELAN and FLEx. Students will learn about metadata and preparing tests for archiving. They will learn about choosing from existing (nonlinguistic) stimuli and creating supplementary ones to address their specific research needs.

Course Material: The materials for the course are your class notes, journal articles, book chapters, and a thesis which are either available online for download (OFD), at the course website (Resources), or at the electronic reserves site (ERS).

Requirements

Final grading is based on participation in class, participation in The University of Florida Language Archive (TUFLA) workshop (March 20) for 4000-level students, the Video in Language Documentation weekend seminar (March 21-22), a test, a project work, and critical report on group projects for 4000-level students and individual projects for 6000-level students. The 6000-level students will also write a report on all the presentations at the TUFLA workshop. The breakdown is as follows:

	4000-level	6000-level
Participation in class	10 pts	10pts
Participation in weekend workshop	10 pts	N/A
Participation in weekend seminar	10 pts	10 pts
Report on TUFLA talks	N/A	10 pts
Exam	30 pts	30 pts
Project work	30	30
Critical report on project presentations	10	10

Week 1. January 6 – 9

Wed Jan 7.

- Review of syllabus and resources

- Time in the field (The Meaning and Use of Ideophones in Siwu, by Mark Dingemanse (pp 4-15)

Fri Jan 9

- Himmelmann, Nikolaus. 2006. Language documentation: What is it and what is it good for?

Week 2. January 12 – 16

Mon. Jan 12

- Bowern, Claire. 2008. Ethical field research

Wed. Jan 14   Multimedia documentation

- Multilingual, Multiperson, Multimedia: Linking Audio-Visual with Text Material in Language Documentation – Patrick McConvell
(http://www.paradisec.org.au/paper2.pdf)

Fri. Jan 16   Some controversies

- Digital video in documentation and archiving. By David Nathan (Language Archive Newsletter 9 pp3-4) http://www.mpi.nl/LAN/issues/lan_09.pdf

Week 3. January 19 – 23

Mon. Jan 19

- Martin Luther King Day - Holiday

Wed. Jan 21

- Video –A linguist's view (A reply to David Nathan) By Patrick McConvell (Language Archive Newsletter 10 pp3-4) http://www.mpi.nl/LAN/issues/lan_10.pdf

- Wittenburg, Peter. 2007. Video – A technologist's view.

Fri. Jan 23

- Image and video compression fundamentals. In Video codec design: developing image and video compression systems by Iain E.G. Richardson (pp27-45)
- Download and install Handbrake
- Download and install Audacity

Week 4. January 26 – 30

Mon. Jan 26

- Audio recording

- Sound Recording: microphones: by David Nathan (Language Archive Newsletter 3 pp6-9)

- (http://www.mpi.nl/LAN/issues/lan_03.pdf)

Wed. Jan 28

- Practice audio recording and compression using handbreak

Fri. Jan 30

- Cholin, Jochen. 2004. Video recording in the field.

Week 5. February 2 – 6

Mon. Feb 2   Metadata

- Reconceiving metadata: language documentation through thick and thin. By David Nathan

- (https://www.hrelp.org/events/workshops/eldp2008_6/resources/nathan-austin.pdf)

Wed. Feb 4

- The ISLE Meta Data Initiative (IMDI)

- http://www.mpi.nl/IMDI/

Fri. Feb 6

- Away for a conference

Week 6. February 9 – 13

Mon. Feb 9   ELAN

- Introduction: Short guide ELAN- Linguistic Annotator

- Download and install ELAN (http://www.lat-mpi.eu/tools/elan/download)

Wed. Feb 11.

- Transcription Mode (http://ideophone.org/transcription-mode-in-elan/)

Fri. Feb 13

- Practice with ELAN
- Record Frog Story, upload into ELAN, transcribe and translate

Week 7. February 16 – 20

Mon. Feb 16   FLEx

- Good, Jeff, et al. nd. Interoperability for language documentation

Wed. Feb 18

- FLEx training videos
- Download FLEx

Fri. Feb 20

- Lockwood, Ron (nd). Machine Parsing of Gilaki Verbs with Fieldworks Language Explorer

Week 8. February 23 – 27   FLEx & Archive

Mon Feb 23

- Practice with FLEx in class **(Lexicon)**

Wed. Feb 25

- More practice with FLEx in class (interlinearizing texts)

Fri. Feb 27

- Digital archives: essential elements in the workflow for endangered languages documentation by David Nathan

Week 9. March 2 – 6

- Spring Break

Week 10. March 9 – 13

Mon. Mar 9   Archive, Data collection & Exams

- Review
- Bowern, Claire. 2008. Discourse, pragmatics and narrative data

Wed. Mar 11

- Ideophones (The Meaning and Use of Ideophones in Siwu by Mark Dingemanse (pp 19-56))

Fri. Mar 13

- Exams

Week 11. March 16 – 20   Data collection

Mon. Mar 16

- Touch and Sound elicitation

Wed. Mar 18

- Preparations for Workshop

Fri. Mar 20

- The University of Florida Languages Archive Workshop

Sat-Sun Mar 21-22

- **Methods Workshop**

Week 12. March 23 – 27

Mon. Mar 23

- Levinson,Stephen (2003): Spatial Language

http://pubman.mpdl.mpg.de/pubman/item/escidoc:59860:2/component/escidoc:59861/Levinson_2003_spatial.pdf

Wed. Mar 25

- Picture book elicitation: http://fieldmanuals.mpi.nl/volumes/1992/bowped/

Fri. Mar 27

- Away for conference

Week 13. March 30 – April 3

Mon. Mar 30

- Video elicitation: http://fieldmanuals.mpi.nl/volumes/2004/put-project/

Wed & Fri. Group Project

Week 14. April 6 – 10

- Group Project Work

Week 15. April 13 – 17

Mon & Wed

- Group Project Work

Fri. Apr 17

- Project Presentations

Week 16. April 20 – 22

Mon & Wed

- Project Presentations

Fri. April 24.

- Away for conference

Week 17. April 27 – May 1

- Submit project work

Participation in class

Students need to read the assigned readings before class and make contributions in class which show CLEARLY that they have indeed read the papers. After class, they should send an email to me reminding me of the point they made in class. Students receive 1 pt for each comment per class. This means that to get all the 10 pts, students need to comment in 10 classes.

Participation in TUFLA workshop (March 20th)

An attendance will be taken for Level 4000 students at the beginning, mid-way and end of the workshop. Students who participate the whole day get 10 pts. Those who are there half-day get 5 points. And those who spend a third of the day get 3 points.

Participation in weekend seminar (March 21st – 22nd)

Students are required to take part in a two-day seminar on video recording in language documentation. This will be held on the weekend of in 302 Pugh Hall.

LIN 6932 Report on workshop talks

There will be 6 talks at the TUFLA workshop. LIN 6000 students need to write a 5-page double-spaced report which summarizes the 6 talks.

Exams

The exam will cover materials taught from weeks 1 – 8. It's on Friday, March 13th.

Project work

Students will work in pairs to choose from existing stimuli or design one specifically suited to a research objective. They will elicit 10 minutes of data in a language other than English which will be video and audio recorded. The video recording will be exported into ELAN, time aligned and translated. It will be exported from ELAN into FLEx so that the first two minutes are transcribed and annotated with morphemic glossing. 25 key words in the text will be entered into a FLEx database with their translation, thereby creating a lexical database. Students will have 20 minutes to present the project in class, from the choice or design of the stimuli to data elicitation. They will present the 10 minute video recording.

The breakdown is as follows:

Appropriateness of stimuli	= 5
Quality of video	= 5
Clarity of audio	= 5
Time-aligned document in ELAN	=5
Text in FLEx with morphemic glossing	= 5
25 words in FLEx lexical database	= 5

Critical Report on project presentation

Students will listen to the group presentations of their peers and submit a critical report on appropriate choice of stimuli, quality of video recording and clarity of audio. Students will be graded for the comments they make so they should make informed comments. Simply stating that a group had a nice video or audio would not be enough to earn a student any point for critical report.

Grading Scale

93-100 (A); 90-92 (A-); 87-89 (B+); 83-86 B; 80-82 (B-); 77-79 (C+); 73-76 (C); 70-72 (C-); 67-69 (D+); 63-66 (D); 60-62 (D-); 59 or below (E)

A grade of Incomplete (I) will not be issued under any circumstance.

Grading Policy

Information on current UF grading policy can be found at:

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Students with disabilities

The University of Florida provides high-quality services to students with disabilities, and you are encouraged to take advantage of them. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should 1) Register with and provide documentation to Disability Resources (352-392-8565), and 2) Bring

a letter to the instructor from Disability Resources indicating that you need academic accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of class.

Honor/Conduct Code

An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. As a University of Florida student, one is expected to neither commit nor assist another in committing an academic honesty violation. Additionally, it is the student's duty to report observed academic honesty violations. Violations of the Honor Code and academic dishonesty will be sanctioned.