

Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Spring 2013

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Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 1:55-2:45 (and by appointment)

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SSA 4930 Section 0027/ LIN 4930 Section 0913/ LIN 6932 Section 02D8

Methods in language documentation

Time: 6th period (12:50 - 1:40)

Location: LIT 0113

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 recordings using ELAN, TOOLBOX and FLEx. Students will learn about metadata and preparing texts 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 and articles and theses**. The articles are all freely available to be downloaded from the web (check the URLs in your syllabus). The theses and one article will be provided at the course’s e-learning website.

Requirements

Final grading is based on participation in a weekend seminar on video recording in language documentation, student contribution in class, a test, a project work, and critical report on other projects. The breakdown is as follows:

Participation in weekend workshop	10 pts
Student contribution in class (see below)	10
Test	40
Project work	30
Critical report on project presentations	10

Week 1. Jan 7 - 11: Introduction

Monday

- Review of syllabus and resources

Wednesday

- Language documentation as a field of anthropological linguistic inquiry and practice.
Read: Language documentation: what is it and what is it good for? By Nikolaus P Himmelmann.
In Essentials of Language Documentation (download from course website)

Friday

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

Week 2. Jan 14 - 18 : Multimedia documentation

Monday:

- Developing multimedia documentation by David Nathan
(https://www.hrelp.org/events/workshops/eldp2008_6/resources/nathan_multimedia.pdf)

Wednesday

- 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
- 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

Friday

- Establishing a system for the recognition of documentation corpora
- (<http://www.paradisec.org.au/blog/2012/11/counting-collections/>)

Week 3. Jan 21 - 25: Audio

Monday: Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- Holiday

Wednesday (Todd Hughes)

- Microphones: by David Nathan (Language Archive Newsletter 3 pp6-9)
(http://www.mpi.nl/LAN/issues/lan_03.pdf)

Friday

- Audio recorders

Class notes

Week 4. Jan 28 – Feb 1: Video & Metadata

Monday (Todd Hughes)

- Video recording in the field pp 3-8 (http://www.mpi.nl/LAN/issues/lan_04.pdf)

Wednesday (Todd Hughes)

- Video recording formats and compression techniques

Technology and tools of language documentation pp 2-3

(http://www.mpi.nl/LAN/issues/lan_04.pdf)

Friday

- Metadata
- Reconceiving metadata: language documentation through thick and thin. By David Nathan
- (https://www.hrelp.org/events/workshops/eldp2008_6/resources/nathan-austin.pdf)
- The ISLE Meta Data Initiative (IMDI)

Week 5. Feb 4 - 8: ELAN

Monday

- Introduction: Short guide ELAN- Linguistic Annotator

Wednesday

- Transcription Mode (<http://ideophone.org/transcription-mode-in-elan/>)
- Download and install ELAN (<http://www.lat-mpi.eu/tools/elan/download>)

Friday

- Practice with ELAN

Week 6. Feb 11 - 15: FLEx (Todd Hughes)

Monday

- Practice with FLEx
(<http://fieldworks.sil.org/flex/>)

Wednesday

- More on FLEx

Friday

- Practice with FLEx

Week 7. Feb 18 - 22: TOOLBOX

Monday

- Introduction to TOOLBOX
(http://www.sil.org/computing/catalog/show_software.asp?id=79)

Wednesday

- More on TOOLBOX

Friday

- Practice with TOOLBOX

Week 8. Feb 25 – Mar 1: ARCHIVING

Monday

- Why archive?

Wednesday

- Archiving challenges (paper at course website)
- Evolving challenges in archiving and data infrastructures, by Daan Broeder, Han Sloetjes, Paul Trilsbeek, Dieter van Uytvanck, Menzo Windhouwer and Peter Wittenburg

Friday

- The DOBES archive

Week 9. Mar 4 - 8: Spring break

No classes

Week 10. Mar 11 - 15: SPACE

Monday

- Language of space
- Levinson, Stephen (2003): Spatial Language

- http://pubman.mpdl.mpg.de/pubman/item/escidoc:59860:2/component/escidoc:59861/Levins_on_2003_spatial.pdf

Wednesday

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

Friday

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

Weekend Workshop (Mar 16 – 17)

Video in language Documentation. Mandana Seyfeddinipur, Director, Endangered Languages Documentation Programme, School of Oriental and African Languages, University of London

Week 11. Mar 18 - 22: SPACE & IDEOPHONES IN AFRICAN LANGUAGES

Monday

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

Wednesday

- The grammatical coding of Postural semantics in Goemai by Birgit Hellwig pp 1-11 and 105-167

Friday

- Review

Week 12. March 25 - 29: Test and Project work

Week 13. April 1 - 5: Project work

Week 14. April 8 - 12: Project work

Week 15. April 15 - 19: Presentations

Week 16. April 22 - 24: Presentations

Attendance and class notes

Class notes form an integral part of the course materials. No points are given for attendance and none is taken away for absence. However, students who absent themselves from class without valid documented reason have to arrange to get notes from their mates. They should not send a mail to the professor or his assistant requesting that slides for the lesson they skipped be sent to them.

Participation in weekend workshop

Students are required to take part in a two-day workshop on video recording in language documentation. This will be held on the weekend of March 16-17 in 302 Pugh Hall.

Student contribution in class

Students are expected to read the assigned readings before class and comment on them in class. Each student gets ONE point per commentary, and each student receives a maximum of ONE point per class.

Test

The test will cover materials taught from weeks 1 – 10.

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 and time aligned. It will be exported from ELAN into TOOLBOX so that the first two minutes are provided with morphemic glossing. The material will then be re-imported into ELAN for free translation. 20 key words in the text will be entered into a FLEx database with their translation. Students will have 20 minutes to present the project in class from the choice or design of the stimuli to data elicitation. This will include their 10 minute video recording. The rest of the class will have 5 minutes to comment on each presentation.

The breakdown is as follows:

Appropriateness of stimuli	= 5
Quality of video	= 5
Clarity of audio	= 5

Document in ELAN and TOOLBOX =10

20 words in FLEx = 5

Critical Report on project presentation

Students will listen to the group presentations of their peers and submit a critical report on (i) appropriate choice of stimuli, (ii) quality of video recording and (iii) clarity of audio. There will be 1 pt for comments on each group, yielding 10 pts for 10 groups. NOTE: A critical comment that does not include all three issues OR THAT IS VAGUE will not get full point.

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.