

Review Sheet for INTD0111: Unity and Diversity of Human Language

Linguistic typology

1. Types of similarities: genetic, areal, and typological
2. Universals: probabilistic and implicational

Nature of human language

3. Design features of human language
4. Evidence for language as a biological system
5. Do we learn language by imitation?

Syntax

6. Constituency (including constituency tests)
7. Head, complements, and specifiers
8. Phrase structure rules
9. "Movement" rules

Morphology

10. Morphemes: free vs. bound; inflectional vs. derivational
11. Processes of word formation: affixation (prefixation, suffixation, infixation, and circumfixation), incorporation.
12. Conceptual categories (plurality, tensehood, comparative degree, etc.)
13. Morphological typology: isolating vs. synthetic; agglutinative vs. fusional; head-marking vs. dependent-marking languages.
14. Variation in tense, aspect, mood, modality, and evidentiality.

Principles and parameters theory

Principles:

15. Structure-dependency
16. The verb-object constraint
17. The Agreement Principle
18. Binding Condition A
19. Binding Condition B

Parameters:

Those discussed so far:

20. The head directionality parameter
21. The verb attraction parameter
22. The subject placement parameter
23. The V2 parameter
24. The subject side parameter
25. The polysynthesis parameter
26. The null subject parameter
27. The optional polysynthesis parameter
28. The serial verb parameter
29. The Adjective Neutralization Parameter
30. The Ergative Case Parameter
31. The topic-prominent parameter
32. The wh-parameter
33. The anaphor domain parameter

Phonetics and phonology

34. Consonants vs. vowels/diphthongs.
35. Consonants: place of articulation, manner of articulation, and voicing.
36. Vowels: tongue height, tongue advancement, lip rounding, and tenseness/laxness of the vocal tract.
37. Coarticulation processes (e.g., assimilation, epenthesis, deletion, etc).

Language change

38. Lexical change and processes of word-formation.
39. Semantic change: Broadening, narrowing, and shift.
40. Morphological change and its processes (e.g., grammaticalization).
41. Syntactic change (in word order, negation, question formation, etc).
42. Phonological change (assimilation, metathesis, phonological shifts, etc.).

Historical linguistics

43. Grimm's law (the first Germanic consonant shift).
44. Verner's law.
45. The second Germanic consonant shift.
46. Reconstruction and the comparative method.
47. Cognates.
48. Phonetic plausibility and the majority rules strategies.
49. Causes for language change.
50. A parametric approach to syntactic change.

Sociolinguistic diversity

51. The language-dialect distinction revisited.
52. Aspects of dialectal variation: lexical, morphological, and syntactic.
53. Appalachian English; African American English, and Chicano English.
54. Popular myths about language and linguistic variation.
55. Factors in linguistic variation: region, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status, gender, etc.
56. Labov's and Nichols' studies.
57. Situation-based sociolinguistic diversity: style, slang, jargon, euphemisms.

Pidgins and Creoles

58. Characteristics of pidgins and creoles.
59. Origin of pidgins and creoles.
60. The post-creolization continuum.

Natural sign language

61. Misconceptions about sign languages.
62. Characteristics of sign languages: phonology, morphology, and syntax.
63. The case of the Nicaraguan Sign Language.