

Syllabus

LIN 835P---INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

Third trimester, School year 2004–2005

Instructor: Dr. Hsiu-chuan Liao

Time: Saturday 12:00 noon–3:00PM

Place: Y-403

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Office Hours: Friday 2:00–4:00PM, and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to the principles of historical linguistics. We will examine the concepts of linguistic reconstruction and change through a problem-solving approach. Topics to be addressed include: (i) Genetic relationship, (ii) Sound change and the Comparative Method, (iii) Language contact and borrowing, (iv) Subgrouping, (v) Linguistic prehistory. Data will be drawn from a variety of languages, with a focus on the languages of the Austronesian language family.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Homework Assignments/Practice Exercises	40%
Term Paper Presentation (April 2)	20%
Research paper (due April 5)	40%

Grades will be based on homework assignments/practice exercises (40%), presentations (20%), and a term paper (40%).

- Term paper: All registrants are expected to write a well-formatted research paper on some aspect of historical linguistics. The term paper requirement aims to help students develop some professional skills that are crucial to success in academic life. Please note the following important details associated with the term paper requirement.
 - Format: All registrants are expected to write a 10–15 page paper that conforms to the *Language* or *Oceanic Linguistics* guidelines.
[Note: Examples should be presented in a (single-spaced) three-line format (Line 1—language data (use IPA Doulos 93 for phonetic symbols); Line 2—interlinear gloss; Line 3—free translation).]
 - Topic and abstract: All registrants are expected to discuss with the instructor about the possible topics for the research paper and prepare a one-page abstract (no longer than 500 words) for the paper. The topic of the term paper is due on **Saturday, February 27, 2005**; the abstract of the paper is due on **Saturday, March 5, 2005**.
 - Term paper presentation: All registrants are expected to make a 15-20 minute presentation on their research paper on **Saturday, April 2, 2005**. The purpose of the

term paper presentation requirement is to provide students with a chance to obtain valuable comments for improving the content of their paper.

- Deadline: The research paper is due at **4:00PM, Tuesday, April 5, 2005**.

REQUIRED READING:

- Crowley, Terry. 1997. *An introduction to historical linguistics* (3rd edition). Auckland, Oxford, and New York: Oxford University Press. [Call #: P140 C76 1997—Circulation, 3rd Floor]
- Greenberg, Joseph H. 1957. *Essays in linguistics*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press. [III (pp. 35–45) and IV (pp. 46–55)]

REFERENCES:

- *Aitchison, Jean. 1991. *Language change: Progress or decay*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- *Bynon, Theodora. 1977. *Historical linguistics*. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- *Campbell, Lyle. 1998. *Historical linguistics: An introduction*. Cambridge: The MIT Press. [Call #: P140 C35 1998—Circulation, 3rd Floor]
- Durie, Mark, and Malcolm Ross. 1996. *The comparative method reviewed*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- *Fox, Anthony. 1995. *Linguistic reconstruction: An introduction to theory and method*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- *Harris, Alice C., and Lyle Campbell. 1995. *Historical syntax in cross-linguistic perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- *Hopper, Paul J., and Elizabeth Closs Traugott. 1993. *Grammaticalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Jeffers, Robert J., and Ilse Lehiste. 1979. *Principles and methods for historical linguistics*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- *Lehmann, Winfred P. 1992. *Historical linguistics* (3rd edition). London and New York: Routledge.
- *McMahon, April M. S. 1994. *Understanding language change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- *Trask, R. L. 1996. *Historical linguistics*. London, New York, Sydney, and Auckland: Arnold.
- *Trask, R. L. 2000. *The dictionary of historical and comparative linguistics*. Chicago and London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers. [Call #: P140 T74 2000—Reference section, 2nd Floor]
- Traugott, Elizabeth Closs, and Bernd Heine, eds. 1991. *Approaches to grammaticalization*. Philadelphia: Benjamins.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week 1: January 8, 2005 (Saturday): **Introduction**

Week 2: January 15, 2005 (Saturday):

TOPIC: GENETIC RELATIONSHIP

Crowley, Chapter 1: Introduction

Greenberg, III “Genetic relationship among languages” (Pp. 35–45)

Week 3: January 22, 2005 (Saturday):

TOPIC: SOUND CHANGE

Crowley, Chapter 3: Expressing sound changes

Crowley, Chapter 4: Phonetic vs. Phonemic change

Week 4: January 29, 2005 (Saturday):

TOPIC: THE COMPARATIVE METHOD

Crowley, Chapter 5: The Comparative Method

Week 5: February 5, 2005 (Saturday):

TOPIC: PROBLEMS WITH THE COMPARATIVE METHOD

Crowley, Chapter 11: Problems with the Comparative Method

Week 6: February 12, 2005 (Saturday):

TOPIC: BORROWING AND LANGUAGE CONTACT

Crowley, Chapter 12: Language contact

[Campbell, Chapter 3: Borrowing]

Week 7: February 19, 2005 (Saturday):

TOPIC: GRAMMATICAL, SEMANTIC, AND LEXICAL CHANGE

Crowley, Chapter 7: Grammatical, semantic, and lexical change

****Week 8:** February 26, 2005 (Saturday): **Topic of the term paper due**

TOPIC: SUBGROUPING

Crowley, Chapter 8: Subgrouping (8.1—Shared innovation and shared retention)
Greenberg, IV “The problem of linguistic subgrouping” (pp. 46–55)

****Week 9:** March 5, 2005 (Saturday): **Abstract of the term paper due**

TOPIC: LEXICOSTATISTICS AND GLOTTOCHRONOLOGY

Crowley, Chapter 8: Subgrouping (8.2—Lexicostatistics and glottochronology)

Week 10: March 12, 2005 (Saturday):

TOPIC: LINGUISTIC PALAEOLOGY OR LINGUISTIC PREHISTORY

Crowley, Chapter 13, Cultural reconstruction

Week 11: March 19, 2005 (Saturday): **Independent Study**

Week 12: March 26, 2005 (Saturday): **Holiday: Black Saturday**

****Week 13:** April 2, 2005 (Saturday): **Term Paper Presentation**

****Week 14:**

April 5, 2005 (Tuesday): Term paper due (at 4:00PM)

April 9, 2005 (Saturday): **Holiday: Bataan Day**