

Note new time and place!

Morphology & Syntax

Linguistics 604, Fall 2004

MWF 11:45-12:45 Gruening 406

Instructor

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<http://www.uaf.edu/linguist/604>

Texts

Thomas E. Payne (1997) *Describing Morphosyntax*

course readings (available at <http://eres.uaf.edu>)

Overview

This course provides an introduction morphology and syntax from a functional-typological perspective. The combined study of morphology and syntax, or morphosyntax, can be summarized succinctly as "grammar". This course does not explore any particular theory of grammar (e.g., minimalist syntax, lexical-functional grammar, etc.) in great detail. Rather, in this class we will seek explanations for grammatical phenomena based the way grammatical constructions function within connected discourse, and crucially, we will base our conclusions on the examination of a broad range of data from the world's languages.

Prerequisites

This course assumes a background knowledge in morphology and syntax equivalent to LING 320 and ENGL 318. You should be able to solve basic morphological and syntactic analysis problems.

Readings

Payne's *Describing Morphosyntax* is a guide to linguistic description and can be viewed more as a handbook than a textbook. Payne surveys the types of morphosyntactic constructions which can occur in the world's languages, but he doesn't go into a lot of detail regarding morphosyntactic theory. That is, he doesn't discuss the motivations or explanations for these various phenomena. Thus, we will supplement the descriptive material in Payne with readings from the literature. Class time will be divided between lecture and discussion. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings. A good portion of your grade (10%) is based on your ability to provide thoughtful commentary on the readings.

Assignments

The assignments for this course consist of the following: three short papers (5-10 double-spaced pages each); an annotated bibliography; and one longer paper (10-20 pages). Each paper should focus on a particular grammatical issue in a language of your choosing, citing relevant data as necessary. Each of the short papers should focus on a particular type of grammatical problem: lexical categories; grammatical relations; complex clauses. The topic of the final paper should be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Grading

Your course grade will be based on participation (10%), short papers (20% each), bibliography (5%), and final paper (25%).

Tentative Reading Schedule

Readings marked "Payne" are from the textbook. Other readings are available on ERes, the electronic reserve system at UAF (see <http://eres.uaf.edu>). This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change. Please check with ERes and the course website for updates.

Week 1 (Sept 9) Introduction to functional-typological linguistics

Payne Introduction

Delancy (2001) *Lectures on Functional Syntax*, lecture #1 "On Functionalism"

[can be downloaded at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~delancey/sb/LECT01.htm>]

Week 2 (Sept 13) Morphological Typology and the notion of "Word"

Payne chap. 2

Mithun (1997) *What it means to be a word: Morphological effects of noun incorporation*

Week 3 (Sept 20) Lexical categories

Payne chap. 3

Hopper & Thompson (1984) *The discourse basis for lexical categories in universal grammar*

Thompson (1988) *A discourse approach to the cross-linguistic category 'adjective'*

Week 4 (Sept 27) Word-order

Payne chap. 4

Mithun (1992) *Is basic word order universal?*

D. Payne (1999) *What counts as explanation? A functionalist approach to word order*

Week 5 (Oct 4) On the notion of subject

Chafe (1994) *Subject, starting points, and the light subject constraint*

Mithun & Chafe (1999) *What are S, A, and O?*

Mithun (1991) *The Grammaticization of Subjects* (Sadie)

Week 6 (Oct 11) Grammatical Relations - Ergativity

Payne chap. 7

Du Bois (1985) *Competing Motivations*

Week 7 (Oct 18) Grammatical Relations - Active/Agentive

Mithun (1991) *Active/agentive case marking and its motivations* (Andrea)

Durie (1987) *Grammatical relations in Acehnese* ()

Western Pantar (handout)

Week 8 (Oct 25) Voice and valence -- Transitivity

Payne chap. 8

Hopper & Thompson (1980) *Transitivity in grammar and discourse*

Week 9 (Nov 1) Reference and Definiteness

Payne chap. 11
Chafe (1987) *Cognitive constraints on information flow*
Du Bois (1980) *Beyond definiteness: the trace of identity in discourse*

Week 10 (Nov 8)

Week 11 (Nov 15) Complex clauses

Week 12 (Nov 22*) Relative clauses

Fox & Thompson (1990) *A discourse Explanation of the Grammar of Relative Clauses in English Conversation*
Keenan (1985) *Relative clauses*

Week 13 (Nov 29) The morphology-syntax interface; Negation

Hargus & Tuttle (1997) *Augmentation as affixation in Athabaskan languages*
J. Payne (1985) *Negation*

Week 14 (Dec 6) Tense-aspect-modality

Payne chap. 9.3
Bybee

Due Dates

Short paper 1 (lexical categories)	Sept 27
Short paper 2 (grammatical relations)	Oct 25
Short paper 3 (complex clauses)	Nov 22
Annotated bibliography	Nov 29
Final paper	Dec 13