

Linguistics 351: Analytical Methods in Morphology and Syntax

Oregon Summer Institute of Linguistics — 2003
Class time and location: MTWThF 11:00-11:50, A201

Instructors and consultation hours:

Thomas E. Payne: M118, MTW 16:00-17:00, and by appointment.
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Course Description

Alice thought to herself, "There's no use in speaking." The voices didn't join in this time, as she hadn't spoken, but, to her great surprise, they all thought in chorus (I hope you understand what thinking in chorus means -- for I must confess that I don't), "Better say nothing at all. Language is worth a thousand pounds a word!"

Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*

If we could "think in chorus", we would not need language. Language is one very important tool that people use to encourage others to entertain particular thoughts, opinions and feelings. Since we cannot do this directly, as the voices did in Alice's experience, and we can't insert diskettes with our thoughts on them into other people's minds, we rely on language and other similar tools to help us express our thoughts. Perhaps this is why "Language is worth a thousand pounds a word!"

Analytical Methods in Morphology and Syntax is an intensive course in the techniques of morphosyntactic description and analysis. In general, the first half of the course concentrates on morphology (the shapes of words), while the second half concentrates on syntax (how words go together in phrases and clauses). Throughout the course we will view language structures as "tools" that are constantly adapting to the communicative needs of people living in community with one another.

Assignments

Reading. Readings will be an important part of the course. The class sessions will be much more interesting for all of us if you come prepared by having read the assignment ahead of time.

Written assignments (70%). There will be eight written assignments (one per week) drawn from exercises in the workbook and supplemented by class handouts. These assignments will normally be distributed on Mondays. Half the assignment, termed "practice problems," will normally be due on Wednesday, and the graded portion of the assignment will be due on Friday (the schedule below is tentative). Because of exams, in weeks four and eight there will be no practice problems. Assignments will be shorter and the final assignment will be due on Wednesday (see tentative schedule). Each assignment will be worth 10% of the grade. Due to the rigorous schedule of the course, no late assignments can be accepted. However, you may drop your lowest score (your course grade will reference only your best 7 of the 8 assignments).

Practice problems are designed to help you with the written assignments. We will check to make sure they are completed (this means some effort has been put into each problem), and will comment on your work, but your answers will not be graded. We just want to see how you are doing, and have a chance to give you feedback. If you choose not to complete the practice problems, your grade for the written assignment that week will be lowered by up to 10%.

Quizzes (15% each). There will be two quizzes during the Summer - one in week four and the other in week eight. Each will cover one-half of the course. You will be making up the questions for both quizzes.

Texts

Required: Payne, Thomas E. MS. Analytical methods in morphology and syntax (packet). Available in the University of Oregon bookstore at 13th and Kincaid (AMMS).

Optional: Payne, Thomas E. 1997. Describing morphosyntax: a guide for field linguists. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. A limited number of copies are also available at the SIL booktable. A copy is on reserve in the SIL library (NCC Burke-Griffith Hall).

Reference: Grimes, Barbara. 2000. Ethnologue, fourteenth edition. Dallas: Summer Institute of Linguistics. This is available on reserve in the SIL library or on the web at <http://www.sil.org/ethnologue/ethnologue.html>.

Reference: Matthews, P. H. 1997, The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. On reserve in the SIL library, and available at the U of O Bookstore.

Outline and Tentative Schedule

Week	Topics/assignments	Reading assignment
1	Introduction Descriptive linguistics Lexical, morphological and syntactic processes	AMMS Chapter 1: Introduction to Morphosyntax

Practice problems #1 due Wednesday, June 25th.
Assignment #1 due Friday, June 27th.

2. Morphological processes AMMS Chapter 2: Categories and Processes
Position class diagrams
Practice problems #2 due Wednesday, July 2nd.
Assignment #2 due Thursday, July 3rd (10:00 pm).
No class Friday, July 4th.
3. Morphophonemics AMMS Chapter 3: Morphophonemics
Morphophonemic rules
Morphological derivations
Practice problems #3 due Wednesday, July 9th.
Assignment #3 due Friday, July 11th.
4. Stem classes AMMS Chapter 4: Word classes
Assignment #4 due Wednesday, July 16th.
Quiz #1 on Friday, July 18th.
5. Constituent structure AMMS Chapter 5: Constituent structure
Phrase structure rules
Tree diagrams
Constituent order typology
Practice problems #5 due Wednesday, July 23rd.
Assignment #5 due Friday, July 25th.
6. Grammatical relations AMMS Chapter 6: Grammatical relations
Practice problems #6 due Wednesday, July 30th.
Assignment #6 due Friday, August 1st.
7. Voice and Valence AMMS Chapter 7: Voice and valence
Reflexives, passives, etc.
Causatives, applicatives, etc.
Practice problems #7 due Wednesday, August 6th.
Assignment #7 due Friday, August 8th.
8. Constructions with more than one verb: AMMS Chapter 8: Multi-clause constructions
Assignment #8 due Wednesday, August 13th.
Quiz #2, Thursday, August 14th.