MODULEINSCHREIBUNG – Module enrolment

You must register for all modules and courses that you would like to take. To register for modules or courses, you will have to do so via TOOL between March 25th, 2020 (12:00) and April 1st, 2020 (17:00).

Further information can be found here: https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/studying/current-students/module-registration/

Freshman orientation

Informations on study regulations and module enrolment

Barbara Stiebels

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:00-12:00
SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

MODULE 04-046-2014 SUPRASEGMENTAL PHONOLOGY

The Phonology and Phonetics of Tone
Jochen Trommer

Thursday 09:15-10:45 SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

In this course, we discuss the central phonological properties of tone in language (i.e., in lexical tone, morphological tone, and intonation), especially tone spreading, dissimilation, underspecification, and downstep with a focus on their phonetic implementation.

Literature:

Cyclic Stress
Jochen Trommer/Ezer Rasin

Thursday 15:15-16:45 SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

The idea that stress applies cyclically, i.e., iteratively in increasingly bigger morphosyntactic domains has been at the foundations of theoretical phonology, as we know it (Chomsky, Halle & Lukoff 1956). In this course, we discuss the most important approaches to cyclic stress (e.g. Liberman & Prince 1977, Halle & Vergnaud 1987, Hayes 1995, Burzio 1994, Collie 2007), the typology of cyclic stress phenomena, and formal aspects of its computation (Bjorkman, & Dunbar 2016).

Literature:
Phonology Reading Group  
Jochen Trommer/Eva Zimmermann  
Monday 17:15-18:45  
SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15  
We meet every week to discuss recent and/or important work in phonology. Most of the time we agree on a paper that we all read and then discuss, but we also include talks/discussions about our own work in progress.

MODULE 04-046-2025  
COMPUTATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON GRAMMAR  
Advanced Module  
Linearization  
Michael Frazier  
Wednesday 13:15-14:45  
SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15  
This seminar will survey a range of approaches and algorithms proposed in the literature for transforming hierarchically structured linguistic objects (e.g. trees) into linear objects that can be interpreted by the sensory motor system.

Decomposition in Syntax and its Interfaces  
Gregory M. Kobele  
Friday 09:15-10:45  
SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15  
Grammars in the transformational tradition have a uniquely 'decompositional' style, whereby what other grammatical traditions view as unanalyzable wholes are broken up ('decomposed') into more atomic primitives. But how does this style of analysis work? What is the logic underlying decomposition? And can studying it shed light on other domains of grammar? We will see how the decompositional style of analysis can be broken down into simple, more primitive operations, and how to derive standard decompositional analyses mechanically from basic dependency structures. We will see how to view decomposition as a generalization of head movement, and how this unifies early- and late-insertion perspectives on the syntax-morphology interface.

Colloquium  
Readings in Formal Linguistics  
Gregory M. Kobele  
Monday 09:15-10:45  
SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15  
This colloquium is a reading group in some domain of formal (i.e. mathematical or computational) linguistics.

MODULE 04-046-2033  
EMPIRICAL METHODS  
Foundational Module  
Corpus linguistics and lexicography  
Barbara Stiebels  
Wednesday 15:15-16:45  
SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15  
Linguistic fieldwork often includes the compilation of corpora and dictionaries as part of the documentation of the respective language. In this seminar we will deal with the concepts and methods of corpus linguistics (including data annotation and retrieval) and lexicography, each with a focus on under-documented languages. In addition, the use of data annotation software will be practised.  
Selected references:  
Field Methods

Tuesday 13:15-14:45  SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

Field Methods is a hands-on approach to linguistic fieldwork. In this course, students interview a native speaker of an understudied (non-European) language to study all aspects of the language’s grammar: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics. They learn to evaluate and organize real, non-idealized linguistic data and to formulate generalizations.

References:

R for Linguists

Monday 15:15-16:45  SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

Starting date: April 20, 2020

In this course we will learn how to use the R computing environment to store, manipulate, and analyze the kinds of data linguists encounter in our work.

 MODULE 04-046-2034  RESEARCH INTERNSHIP

The internship should involve some practical research activity in a linguistic research project (at the Institute of Linguistics or in some external linguistic project, e.g. at one of the Max-Planck institutes in Leipzig/Jena). Students learn to understand and apply linguistic research methods. Please clear up the details of the internship with Barbara Stiebels, Gereon Müller or Gregory M. Kobele. Since the internship is possible at any time, you should enrol for this module in the semester in which you intend to present your internship in a colloquium of the institute and write your internship report. The internship should involve at least 150 hours of practical work; the details of the internship (length, work load, tasks) should be confirmed by the internship supervisor in form an internship certificate. Note that only those internships comply with the requirements of the module that do not involve restrictions of secrecy wrt. to your activities and the applied research methods. If you will not be allowed to report on the central aspects of your practical work, you should look for some other internship.

 MODULE 04-046-2035  LANGUAGE IN FOCUS

The Morphosyntax of Gender

Thursday 11:15-12:45  SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

Gender is usually defined as the sorting of nouns into two or more classes, reflected in agreement with other elements in the DP and the clause. In this course, we investigate research questions in the morphosyntax of the grammatical category of gender, such as: Where are gender features located in the hierarchical structure? What is the relationship between gender and other phi features? What is the typology of gender systems and how do different theories account for cross-linguistic variation? What does gender agreement teach us about agreement in the grammar?

References:
Topics in Syntax
Gereon Müller
Tuesday 17:15-18:45 SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

In this seminar we will look at recent literature on case assignment, passivization, infinitives, movement and nominal projections. In accordance with the general topic of the module, each of the five topics of the seminar will also feature work on relevant constructions from Lithuanian.

Structure of Lithuanian
NN
Thursday 17:15-18:45 SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

In this course, we will be taking an in-depth look at the grammar of Modern Lithuanian. We will start with the basic phonological patterns and then focus on the system of lexical accents. Lithuanian accentuation is strongly interleaved with the morphological structure of the language; therefore, we will analyze the distribution of surface accents in the morphological paradigms of nouns and verbs. Finally, we will also go over a few interesting and potentially challenging syntactic patterns, such as double passives, object marking in infinitivals, participial clauses etc.

COLLOQUIA (without credits)

Colloquium Linguistic Typology
Barbara Stiebels
Tuesday 11:15-12:45 SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

The colloquium provides a forum to present and discuss ongoing research in linguistic typology. Presentations and suggestions for readings are welcome. The program will be fixed at the beginning of the semester.

Morphology/Syntax Colloquium
Gereon Müller
Friday 14:00-15:30 SR H1 5.16, Beethovenstraße 15

We will discuss recent research on morphology and syntax, including work by the colloquium participants. Participants: Everyone who is interested is cordially invited to participate.