Linguistic Typology

Instructor: Irina Burukina

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When & where: Wednesday 12:30–14:00, R442, DELG.

1 Overview

Linguistic typology studies languages and groups them together according to their phonological, morphological, and syntactic features. In this course we will discuss how different and yet similar languages are across the world by looking at the most famous linguistic classifications and studying typological maps. Among other things, you will learn that English and other familiar languages of Europe often turn out to be not that 'typical' and that they are quite unusual compared to languages of Africa, South Asia, or Amazonia.

This course is a basic seminar. The students are expected to have previously attended the Introduction to Linguistics course, but no in-depth knowledge of syntax/phonology is required.

2 Schedule

This is a preliminary schedule for the course. Changes to it will be announced in class in advance.

For each class there will be a handout.

Date	Topic
01/03	Typology. Principles & Parameters. Language families
08/03	Typological databases. Features. Maps
15/03	National holiday (no classes)
22/03	Phonological typology
29/03	Morphological typology
05/04	Morphosyntactic typology
12/04	Word Order
19/04	Verbs across the world's languages
26/04	Nouns across the world's languages
03/05	Lexicon
10/05	Implicational hierarchies. Language change
17/05	Revision. Final project presentation
24/05	Final project presentation

3 Requirements

At the end of the term, students are expected (1) to write a short essay describing a particular language in terms of its typological features and comparing it to English, **and** (2) to make a 5-minute presentation of their project in class at the last week of the term. The project can be done individually or in pairs. Each student/pair will be assigned a language at the end of March.

There will also be occasional non-grade quizzes.

Attendance: No more than three absences will be tolerated. **If you need to skip more than three classes, notify me about this via email**.

4 Readings

The required materials:

- handouts,

- chapters and maps from WALS https://wals.info/

Additional readings:

- 2010. *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Typology*, ed. Jae Jung Song.

5 Where to find the course

The course materials will be uploaded to the website:

http://seas3.elte.hu/coursematerial/BurukinaIrina/index.html

6 Other

Dr. Irina Burukina. Contact e-mail address: irina.burukina@btk.elte.hu

Please, use only this email address to send me emails. Do not forget to add your name and indicate your group.

If you have any questions, I will be glad to meet with you. Please, send me an email in advance to schedule an appointment; we can meet either at ELTE or via Zoom.