

Li8 Morphology / Jim Blevins / 2017–18

Course Description

This course offers a concise overview of morphological variation in the worlds' languages and provides an introduction to some of the dominant descriptive and theoretical models that have been developed to analyze this variation. Particular emphasis is placed on identifying the substantive ideas about form variation that underlie morphological models and on isolating and evaluating any associated typological biases and theoretical idealizations, as well as broader cognitive assumptions and implications.

Calendar: [Lecture & Supervision Schedule](#)

Readings

Textbooks

- Matthews (1991) *Morphology* ['M' in Syllabus]
- Haspelmath & Sims (2010) *Understanding Morphology* ['HS']
- Blevins (2016) *Word and Paradigm Morphology* ['B']

Bibliography: [PDF](#)

Michaelmas Term

Lectures

Week	Lectures/Readings
1	Introduction to linguistic morphology . M§1; HS§1
2	Dimensions of morphological variation . M§2; HS§2; B§1
3	Contrasts and atomistic functions . M§3; HS§3.1; Bickel & Nichols (2007)
4	Contrasts, meaning and relations . M§4; HS§4; Aikhenvald (2007)
5	Implications and arrangements . M§10; HS§§8.6–8.8; B§4
6	Templates and syntagmatic organization . M§5; HS§7; B§5
7	The morphemic hypothesis . M§6; HS§4; B§2
8	Units and relations . M§7; B§5; Hjelmslev (1948)

Supervisions

Week	Due	Topic
2	23 Oct	Predicting the unpredictable? Hale (1968); McCarthy (1981); Sanders (1990)
4	6 Nov	Segmentation and interpretation. Pike (1963); Manning (1998)
6	20 Nov	Slots and templates. Inkelas (1993); Luís & Spencer (2005); Nordlinger (2010)

Lent Term

Lectures

Week	Lectures/Readings
1	Wortschatz, Lautlehre, Formenlehre. M§8; HS§10
2	Modularity and the Paradigm Cell Filling Problem. M§10; Hankamer (1989)
3	Zipfian distributions and decompositional analysis. Maiden (2005); Kemps et al. (2005)
4	Abstraction and extrapolation. B§7; Ackerman et al. (2009); Blevins et al. (2016)
5	Paradigmatic and distributed realization. M§9; HS§3.2; B§6; Halle & Marantz (1993)
6	Morphological splits and subsystems. HS§5.5; Booij (1993); Clahsen (1999)
7	Mechanisms, routes and networks. HS§12; Baayen et al. (1997)
8	Theories and models in morphology. B§8; Baayen et al. (2011); Ramscar et al. (2013)

Supervisions

Week	Due	Topic
2	5 Feb	The Great Daghestanian Case Hoax. Comrie & Polinsky (1998); Spencer (2012)
4	19 Feb	The Great Daghestanian Stem Hoax? Kibrik (1998); Embick & Halle (2005); Aronoff (2012)
6	5 Mar	The domain of prosodic truncation. Hale (1973); Wilkinson (1988); Round (2011)
8	TBC	The demarcation of morphology.