

Masterstudiengang Linguistik (Linguistics)

Wintersemester 2023/24

Stand: 27.9.2023

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 September 27, 2023 (12:00) and October 2, 2023 (17:00).

Further information can be found here:

<https://www.uni-leipzig.de/en/studying/current-students/module-registration/>

Freshman orientation - online

Informations on study regulations and module enrolment

Fabian Heck

Thursday, September 28, 2023 15:00–16:00 o'clock

→ [online link](#)

If you commence your studies, you will find specific information on our MA Linguistics [here](#).

Module recommendations for first semester students

We recommend the foundational module *Phonology, Morphology, Syntax* (04-046-2002) and the two advanced modules *Non-Local Syntax* (04-046-2016) and *Linguistic Typology* (04-046-2031). Alternatively, you may choose a module from a different department (e.g., English studies, German studies). However, you have to check whether you would be admitted to the module (in terms of required qualifications and teaching capacities). In addition, you have to apply for taking that module by submitting this [Antrag](#) to the chair of the exams committee (Prof. Fabian Heck). If you are interested in taking the special module *Research internship* (04-046-2034), you should do so in a higher semester.

MODULE 04-046-2002

PHONOLOGY, MORPHOLOGY, SYNTAX

Foundational Module

Phonology

Jochen Trommer

Thursday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 222

The minor goal of this course is to become familiar with the most important theoretical tools to approach the phonology of natural languages: Distinctive Features, autosegmental and prosodic representations, ordered rules, the cycle, and violable constraints. Its major goal is to learn applying all these tools rigorously and creatively to real data from natural languages.

References: - Kenstowicz, M. (1994) *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Cambridge MA: Blackwell.
- Kager, R. (1999) *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press.

Morphology

Monday 09:15-10:45 NSG, S 213

Paula Fenger

This class is an introduction to morphology at an advanced level. We will present empirical questions that morphological theory intends to solve and theoretical concepts employed for this. We will also read recent published work and discuss current research problems. The ultimate goal of the course is to learn how to recognize and analyze theoretically relevant morphological phenomena.

Syntax

Monday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 223

Michael Frazier

The purpose of this course is twofold. First, it is supposed to make students who just entered the MA-program in linguistics in Leipzig (and who did not take the introductory syntax course in module 04-006-1003) familiar with the most fundamental properties of the derivational syntactic theory usually referred to as the "Minimalist Program" (MP; mostly based on Chomsky 1995, 2000, 2001). Second, it aims at addressing further topics within this theory that are not covered by the introductory course. Such topics may (but need not) include binding (Principle A, B, C), cyclicity (the cycle, strict cyclicity, tucking-in), locality (MLC, PIC, Freezing, Leap Frogging), Agree (upward, downward, cyclic, gluttonic, multiple), copies (reconstruction, linearization), case (alignment systems, dependent case), labeling. The concrete syllabus can be adopted to the students' needs.

MODULE 04-046-2016**NON-LOCAL SYNTAX**

Advanced Module

Reflexes of Movement

Friday 11:15-12:45 NSG, S 127

Gereon Müller

In this seminar, we will be concerned with reflexes of movement, both in base positions and in intermediate positions. These reflexes can be phonological in nature. They can also be morphological (this is probably the most widespread, and well-known, kind of reflex; arguably, it also includes the phenomenon of resumptive pronouns). They can be syntactic, in the sense that a syntactic operation is triggered that would otherwise be unexpected (like binding, stranding, or extraposition). And they can be semantic (indicating, e.g., intermediate reconstruction sites). A main focus of the seminar will be on the question of what consequences these reflexes of movement have for theories of movement.

Lit.: Will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Selective (Operator) Islands

Tuesday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 327

Fabian Heck

Chomsky (1964) notes that wh-movement out of a wh-interrogative clause is illformed in English (later to become known as the wh-island effect; cf. *What did he wonder where John put?). Similarly, wh-movement out of a clause that involves topicalization is impossible in English (topic-island effect, Rochemont 1989; cf. *What does John think that Bill Mary gave to?). Many languages other than English have been reported to also exhibit instances of such "operator-island" effects. However, it also seems to be the case that operator-island effects do not show up in a uniform manner. For instance, Bulgarian is usually assumed to not exhibit the wh-island effect (e.g., Rudin 1988). And even within one language, a category may sometimes constitute an island and sometimes not, depending on the grammatical process involved ("selective islandhood"). For instance, Fanselow (1987) claims that topicalization in German may (marginally) escape wh-islands while wh-movement may not (cf. ??Radios weiß ich nicht, wie man repariert vs. *Was für Radios weißt du nicht wie man repariert?). The aim of the present course is to learn more about the empirical landscape of selective islandhood and about theories that have been proposed to account for it. Relevant readings will be fixed in the first class (preliminary references are Fanselow 1987, Rizzi 1982, Müller & Sternefeld 1993, Boskovic 2008, Müller 2010, Keine 2016, 2020).

Constraints on Movement

Tuesday 17:15-18:45 NSG, S 127

Gereon Müller

In this colloquium we will be concerned with constraints on syntactic movement, from Chomsky's legendary A-over-A Principle from 1964, via the famous Subadjacency Condition and the notorious Empty Category

Principle, to recent concepts of phase impenetrability and anti-locality. Throughout, the concept of cyclicity will figure prominently in the analyses. We will look at empirical evidence from a variety of typologically different languages; and we will also consider approaches based on a variety of different theories of grammar (Minimalist Program, GPSG, HPSG, Optimality Theory, Gradient Harmonic Grammar). Note: This colloquium will to some extent be based on lectures. Its main purpose is to provide background information for the two seminars of the module.

Lit.: Will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

MODULE 04-046-2031**LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY**Advanced Module

The typology of quantifiers and quantification**Barbara Stiebels***Introduction* = [12.10.2023](#)

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

[7.12.2023](#) - [1.2.2024](#)

Tuesday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 327 and

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

Starting from the questionnaire in Keenan (2012) we will look at the cross-linguistic distribution of the various types of quantifiers, their formal makeup and their scopal properties. The questionnaire is based on Partee's (1995) distinction of D-quantifiers and A-quantifiers. D-quantifiers (e.g., *some, several, no, one, two, . . . , many, few, a few, a couple, which?, how many?*) build expressions which are (or bind) arguments of predicates. A-quantifiers (e.g., *once, twice, sometimes, three times, occasionally, frequently, rarely, never, a lot*) directly build predicates – verbal affixes, preverbs, auxiliaries, or predicate modifiers (adverbs, PPs). There have been claims that languages may lack D-quantifiers. We will also discuss elicitation methods for quantificational elements.

Lit.: - Keenan, Edward L. (ed.). 2012. *Handbook of quantifiers in natural language*. Dordrecht: Springer. (2nd vol 2017)
- Partee, Barbara H. 1995. Quantificational structures and compositionality. In Emmon Bach et al. (eds.), *Quantification in natural languages* (Vol. I/II), 541–601. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

The typology of pronouns**Barbara Stiebels**[10.10.2023](#) + [17.10.–5.12.2023](#)

Tuesday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 327 and

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

In this course we will look at the morphosyntactic and semantic properties of personal pronouns (including possessive pronouns), reflexive and reciprocal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, indefinite pronouns, interrogative pronouns, relative pronouns, and adverbial pro-forms in typological perspective. We will focus on the morphological structure of the pronouns, the features encoded by the pronouns (e.g., phi-features, case, parameters of proximity/distance), and the respective domains of anaphoric reference. We will consider both free pronouns and affixal pronominal elements. The course will also address methodological issues in typological research (sampling, comparative concepts, autotype-method, typological databases).

Lit.: (announced in class)

Typology reading group**Barbara Stiebels**

Thursday 15:15-16:45 NSG, S 223

We will read and discuss recent and/or important papers on linguistic typology (from a descriptive, theoretical or methodological perspective). Participants are invited to make suggestions for readings. In addition, everyone working on a typological/cross-linguistic topic is invited to present his/her current work. We will fix the schedule in the first meeting. The reading group is open to everyone.

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). Students learn to understand and apply linguistic research methods. Please clear up the details of the internship with Michael Frazier. 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. The presentation of the internship will be scheduled for the last week of the lecture period or the first week of the following semester break . At the point of presentation the internship has to be finished.

Further courses of interest (without credits)

Grammar Development

Gregory M. Kobele

Tuesday 11:15-12:45 NSG, S 327

Starting date: October 17, 2023

This course offers a hands-on introduction to grammar development using minimalist grammars. We will review mature grammar development systems and best practices in other formalisms (HPSG, LFG, TAG) before beginning with the nascent situation in minimalism. The goal is for students to familiarize themselves with tools that permit them to independently develop broad coverage analyses of their favorite language.

Inflectional Morphology in Harmonic Serialism: New Developments

Gereon Müller

Friday 14:00-15:30 HSG, HS 20

In this advanced, research-oriented seminar, we will look at the prospects of the approach to inflectional morphology in Harmonic Serialism developed in Mueller (2020) ("Inflectional Morphology in Harmonic Serialism", Sheffield: Equinox), which will be assumed as background.

Prerequisites for participation: Good knowledge of harmonic serialism, different theories of inflectional morphology, and the model in Mueller (2020).

COLLOQUIA (without credits)

Phonology reading group

Jochen Trommer

Monday 11:15-12:45 Beethovenstraße 15, Raum H1 5.16

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.

Recent Work in Morphology and Syntax

Philipp Weisser/
Paula Fenger

Monday 13:15-14:45 Beethovenstraße 15, Raum H1 5.16

In this colloquium, we discuss recent work in morphology and syntax that either goes back to the participants's own research or has recently been published.

Participants: The colloquium is open to all.

Colloquium on computation

Gregory M. Kobele

Wednesday 13:15-14:45 NSG, S 103

Starting date: October 18, 2023

In this colloquium we discuss topics relevant to the intersection of computation and grammar.

SPECIAL MODULE

The modules 04-006-1005 *Non-Indoeuropean/non-European language* and 04-006-1009 *Methods and Practice of Linguistic Research* may be attended as Special modules (if not already taken as part of the Bachelor degree).

Registration via Tool is not possible; registration has to be done via the registration form provided at the beginning of the lecture period ([see website](#)). In addition, this [application](#) form has to be [sent](#) to the head of the examination committee.

04-006-1005 Non-Indoeuropean/non-European language

Moksha-Mordvinisch

Mariia Privizentseva

Wednesday 09:15-10:45 NSG, S 303

Friday 09:15-10:45 NSG, S 327

This course is on Moksha Mordvin. This is the endangered Uralic language spoken in Republic of Mordovia, Russia. The language is characterized by the nominative accusative alignment, object agreement, rich case system, and free word order. We will consider main phonological, morphological, and syntactic characteristics of Moksha in a typological perspective. We will further focus on non-trivial phenomena in Moksha syntax and discuss how they fit into current Minimalist syntactic theory. In particular, we will look at differential object marking, postpositional phrases and inhomogeneous properties of postpositions, passive, non-verbal predication, long-distance agreement, and comparative constructions.

04-006-1009 Methods and Practice of Linguistic Research

The typology of downstep

Jochen Trommer

Thursday 09:15-10:45 NSG, S 228

Downstep is a global lowering process which does not just affect single tones or tone bearing units, but the register of virtually all involved tones following its trigger. Downstep is found in a big variety of tone languages, but also in many intonational systems such as English and German. This course will focus on the extreme diversity of downstep systems in the languages of the world, differing in the types of trigger (Low tones, High tones, prosodic boundaries, or morphological constructions), its phonetic implementation (often substantially differing even among speakers of the same language), and its interaction with other phonological processes (e.g., tone deletion, phrasing, plateauing or upstep). The practical goal is to jointly compile a typological database of downstep phenomena encoding these factors, and to evaluate the collected data patterns against different theoretical approaches to downstep.

Cross-linguistic variation in Impersonal Constructions

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Monday 11:15-12:45 NSG, S 213

This seminar focuses on (empirical and theoretical) variation in impersonal constructions. On the empirical side this means we will focus on different way languages express impersonal meanings, for example through the use of impersonal passives or impersonal pronouns (such as 'man', 'one' or 'you'). Through this empirical exploration we will see where inter and intra-language variation arises. On the theoretical side, we will discuss the morphology-syntax-semantics interplay between argument structure, pronominal structures, and how different impersonal constructions relate to generic and existential meanings.