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READINGS IN LANGUAGE TYPOLOGY/LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS

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The bibliography presented here was developed as a reference bibliography for a single-semester graduate course in language typology/language universals at Indiana University. Its main orientation is toward the type of work represented by the Stanford University Language Universals Project. It does not, for the most part, include recent research primarily focused on formal universals of grammar. It also does not include, for the most part, references to works which deal primarily with single languages.

The course for which this bibliography was compiled was organized into two main sections: (i) the logic and methodology of modern typological/universal research and explanation of language universals and (ii) a series of specific topics spanning phonological, syntactic and lexical typologies. While the topic of language change was first conceived of as a third section, it was found to be better treated in relation to issues in (i) and (ii). The first section served as background for the examination, construction and evaluation of specific proposals considered in the second section. The main task of students for the first section was reading and discussion. In the second section, each student was responsible for providing the class with a synopsis and exemplification drawn from a language familiar to the student for each topic, along with any special comments on its relevance to the issues being considered. Thus, at the end of the course, each student had a collection of data from a range of languages on each topic; part of the value of the course can be measured by the range and quality of the language samples collected.

Students were required to submit research projects, first in the form of a proposal or proposals followed by consultation with the instructor, presentation to the class for discussion, and finally as a written research paper. Collaboration was encouraged, and two projects were submitted under joint authorship. Some examples of the kinds of projects selected are: (a) a comparison of the morphology and syntax of honorifics in Korean and Japanese; (b) a phonetic and phonological comparison of palatalization in Japanese and Canadian French; (c) a cross-language comparison of raising and lowering processes in nasalized vowels; (d) an investigation of the morphology, syntax and accepted usage of imperative constructions in a cross-genetic sampling of African languages.

Specific topics covered in the course with readings from the bibliography are suggested below; selections were chosen to provide current views on these topics which complement or challenge each other.

A. Logic, Methodology, Explanation

Bell (1978). Language samples.

Greenberg (1974). Language typology: a historical and analytic overview.

_____ (1978). Typology and cross-linguistic generalizations.

B. Phonological Inventories

Crothers (1978). Typology and universals of vowel systems.

Gamkrelidze (1978). On the correlation of stops and fricatives in a phonological system.

Greenberg (1978). Some generalizations concerning initial and final consonant clusters.

C. Phonological Processes

Ferguson (1978). Phonological processes.

D. Prosody

Bolinger (1978). Intonation across languages.

Greenberg & Kaschube (1976). Word prosodic systems: a preliminary report.

Maddieson (1978). Universals of tone.

E. Case

Comrie (1978). Ergativity.

DeLancey (1980). An interpretation of split ergativity and related patterns.

Dixon (1979). Ergativity.

Moravcsik (1978). On the distribution of ergative and accusative patterns.

F. Agreement

Givón (1976). Topic, pronoun, and grammatical agreement.

Greenberg (1978). How does a language acquire gender markers?

Moravcsik (1974). Object-verb agreement.

_____ (1978). Agreement.

G. Person

Head (1978). Respect degrees in pronominal reference.

Ingram (1971). Typology and universals of person pronouns.

H. Relative Clauses

Keenan and Comrie (1977). Noun phrase accessibility and universal grammar.

I. Constituent Order

Greenberg (1963). Some universals of grammar with particular reference to the order of meaningful elements.

Hawkins (1979). Implicational universals as predictors of word order change.

Vennemann (1973). Explanation in syntax.

J. Lexical Universals

Anderson (1978). Lexical universals and body-part terminology.

Clark and Clark (1978). Universals, relativity and language processing.

The following bibliography is presented in two forms: (i) a complete alphabetic listing, and (ii) an abbreviated topic listing. In some instances, a choice was made to list an article under a given topic though it may have relevance to more than one area; I hope that this has not obscured the usefulness of the topic listing.

TYPOLOGIES/UNIVERSALS REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY (Alphabetical)

Abbreviations:
- *BLS* Papers from the Meetings of the Berkeley Linguistic Society
- *CLS* Papers from the Meetings of the Chicago Linguistic Society
- *UL* Universals of Language, J. Greenberg, ed.
- *UHL* Universals of Human Language, Greenberg, Ferguson and Moravcsik, eds.
- *WPLU* Stanford University Working Papers in Language Universals

Anderson, E. 1978. Lexical universals of body-part terminology. *UHL* 3.335-68.

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_____ 1970. Syllabic consonants. *WPLU* 4.

_____ 1971. Acquisition-significant and transmission-significant universals. *WPLU* 5.

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