FALL 2015

DATE	SPEAKER/AFFILATION	TITLTE	ABSTRACT		
8/25/2015	Dr. Toshiaki Furukawa Otsuma Women's University	Revisiting codeswitching in a Hawaiian language radio program	In this presentation, I report an ongoing research project on talk in a Hawaiian language radio program, Ka Leo Hawai'i, which was broadcast in the 1970s and 1980s. The radio program aimed at documenting, primarily, Native Hawaiian elders' talk, and made a significant contribution to creating resources for future generations and to the revitalization of the language. In the present talk, I examine codeswitching between Hawaiian, English, and Pidgin, and discuss what the participants accomplish through such discursive practices.		
9/1/2015	No seminar scheduled.				
9/8/2015	No seminar scheduled.				
9/15/2015	Dr. Christopher Davis, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law and Letters, Department of Languages and Cultures, University of the Ryukyus	Reduplication and Plurality in Yaeyama Ryukyuan Questions	Paper for the talk can be found at http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/davis-salt25.pdf. In Yaeyaman, a critically endangered Japonic language of the Southern Ryukyus, there is a distinction made between singular and plural wh-questions, with plurality indicated by reduplication of the indeterminate (wh) pronoun. I present data from original fieldwork on the Taketomi dialect of Yaeyaman, and argue that reduplication of the indeterminate is triggered by a morpheme RED. I present semantic evidence that this morpheme can attach either directly to the associated indeterminate, in which case it triggers an entity-level plural presupposition, or alternatively can attach at a clausal level, where it triggers a propositional-level plural presupposition. These ideas are spelled out formally in a Hamblin question semantics. When attached directly to an indeterminate pronoun, RED requires the presence of non-atomic, plural entities as possible alternatives in the denotation of the indeterminate. I then show that reduplicated indeterminate subjects can be interpreted distributively in pair-list answers, while reduplicated indeterminate objects cannot. I suggest that this interpretation reflects morphological agreement between the subject indeterminate and a clause-level RED morpheme, which requires the existence of plural answers in the set of alternative propositions denoted by the question. The semantics of clause-level RED requires a distinction between atomic and plural answers at the clause level that parallels the distinction between atomic and plural entities at the nominal level. I also compare the Yaeyaman data with reduplication in Korean questions, showing that the semantics of RED differs between the two languages. Further comments from Dr. Piet Lincoln, regarding questions words in Oceanic, can be found at http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/Open-Letter-to-Chris-Davis.pdf.		
9/22/2015	Dr. Victoria Anderson, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Recent findings in animal communication research	This talk reports on recent findings in animal communication research. The field has seen rapid advances as technology has given humans the ability to extend our senses. This in turn has created interest in looking at more nuanced research questions than the traditional, "How do other species' communication systems fall short of language?" and, "Can other species learn language?" Brief examples will include communication in cephalopods, cetaceans, corvids, elephants, fish, and social insects.		

9/29/2015	Dr. Tyler Heston, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Stress, tone or something stranger? Phonetic and phonological perspectives on Fataluku's prosody	Determining whether a language has stress, tone or some other type of word-level prosody is a fundamental component of describing the language, but as any fieldworker can attest, this task is rarely straightforward. Perceptions of prosodic phenomena are highly biased by a researcher's own L1, making nonnative fieldworkers' intuitions unreliable. Additionally, there is rarely a one-to-one mapping between phonetic cues and phonological representations: a single phonological category (such as stress) may be signaled by multiple cues (e.g. f0, duration, spectral tilt, intensity), while a single cue (such as f0) may be used for signaling multiple categories (e.g. stress, tone, intonation). In this presentation, I investigate the word-level prosodic system of Fataluku, a Papuan language of East Timor (an island nation located just to the north of Australia). Previous analyses of Fataluku's word-level prosody have included predictable stress (Hull 2005), phonemic stress (Campagnolo 1973) and phonemic tone (Stoel 2008). After analyzing the phonetic and phonological evidence for each of these proposals, I conclude that the f0 peaks identified by earlier authors as either stress or tone in fact represent a basic rising-falling intonational melody that occurs over each word. There is at present no convincing evidence for either stress or tone in Fataluku, though there is evidence that the alignment of the basic intonational melody is affected by weight-sensitive metrical feet. In addition to its pertinence to phonological theory, this presentation is highly relevant to anyone interested in analyzing the word-level prosodic system of an underdocumented language.
10/6/2015		No se	eminar scheduled.
10/13/2015	Ivan Banov, Department of Second Language Studies, UH-Manoa	The Production of Voice Onset Time in Voiceless Stops by Spanish-English Natural Bilinguals	Abstract: This study analyzes the production of Voice Onset Time (VOT) of natural SpanishEnglish bilinguals. VOT is a linguistic characteristic that measures the amount of aspiration occurring after the release of a stop consonant. In terms of VOT, English stop consonants differ substantially from their Spanish equivalents. This study analyzes whether or not natural bilinguals produce VOTs that approximate VOTs of monolingual speakers of each language. Participants completed two surveys to quantify their linguistic dominance in English and Spanish. They were then recorded performing similar speaking tasks in both languages. The conclusions show that natural bilinguals do not produce their English or Spanish VOTs within the monolingual norms defined in previous studies. If conclusions were to be drawn solely from this data, then the participants would theoretically have no monolingual-like language production of VOT. There is also no correlation between language dominance scores and production of VOT. These results support the conclusion that a natural bilingual is not the equivalent of two natural monolingual speakers. Significant correlations exist between VOT production and gender, age of learning English, and amount of time spent watching TV in each language. Another interesting conclusion is that many of the participants score more Spanish-dominant when a survey is given in Spanish and more English-dominant when the very same survey is given in English. This shows that even the language of a survey may skew responses slightly.
10/20/2015	Dr. Robert Blust, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Why Dragons?	A belief in dragons is found in many parts of the world, ranging from foraging tribal societies to high cultures like that of imperial China and the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome. Yet it is a plain fact that there is no credible evidence for the existence of such creatures. Why, then, do people believe in them in so many places? Any globally-distributed culture trait like this must have some universal, natural basis, but what could that be in the case of the dragon? A careful analysis of the *traits* associated with dragons (guardians of the weather capable of flight, with wings and scales, living in caves, under waterfalls, guardians of springs and of treasures, breathers of fire, simultaneously male and female), leads us inexorably to manifestations of *Nature* that were conceived in similar ways for tens,or even hundreds of thousands of years before modern times. It is in these universal natural phenomena and the human propensity for conceptualizing them in similar ways that the secrets of this most mysterious creation of the human mind are to be found.

10/27/2015	Russell Barlow, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Documenting a previously unknown language: the case of Ulwa in PNG	Ulwa [ISO 639-3: yla] is a severely endangered language spoken by about 600 people in East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea. It belongs to a family of three languages, none of which has been documented. This talk presents the preliminary findings of a seven-week pilot research project to record and describe the Ulwa language as spoken in the village of Manu. The presentation includes a brief ethnographic and sociolinguistic sketch, as well as a typological overview of the language. Topics to be covered include: how to document a language 'from scratch', the difficulties of determining genetic affiliation in PNG, and issues of language endangerment and revitalization.
11/3/2015	Raina Heaton, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	How many 'antipassives' are there? A typology of antipassive- type constructions in Kaqchikel	Many Mayan languages have been described as having three antipassive-like constructions: the absolutive antipassive, agent focus (formerly termed 'focus antipassive', although not currently considered an antipassive), and the incorporative antipassive (Smith-Stark 1978, Dayley 1981, Aissen 1992, 1999, Stiebels 2006), which was developed primarily to describe the syntax of these constructions and how that relates to information structure. However, recent fieldwork on Kaqchikel demonstrates that this three-way (or two-way, not counting agent focus) classification is insufficient, and that there are actually five different antipassive-like constructions in Kaqchikel, when both syntactic and functional characteristics are taken into account, that do not necessarily correspond to the categories previously used to describe antipassives in this and closely related languages. This paper argues for a new analysis, which, despite requiring more categories, provides a more holistic picture of these clearly related detransitivizing constructions. There are several advantages to this categorization: first, it makes obvious that this language possesses an
			extensive array of similar detransitivizing constructions to express different relationships between the verb and the patient, all using various combinations of the same morphosyntacic devices. Second, the verbal morphemes - o/-u and -Vn are distributed based on the recoverability of the object, not on the syntax, as some have claimed (e.g. Ajsivinac and Henderson 2011:19, Erlewine 2013:8). Finally, agent focus, although morphologically unique, is not separate from the antipassive system. It functions with the oblique antipassive to serve agent-promoting functions, as opposed to patient-demoting functions (cf. Foley and Van Valin 1984).
11/10/2015	No seminar scheduled.		

11/17/2015	Claire Stabile, Beth Chun Comstock, Katie Drager & Rachel Schutz, UH- Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	"He said, 'How come you no talk like us?'": Quotative Use in Hawai'i English and Pidgin	The current study examines variation and change in the forms of quotative verbs in two language varieties spoken in Hawai'i: Hawai'i English (a Local dialect of English) and Pidgin (an English-lexified creole sometimes referred to by linguists as Hawai'i Creole). The data are sociolinguistic interviews conducted with 42 people from Hawai'i from three gender-balanced age groups: 14 younger (19-31), 14 middle- aged (42-60), and 14 older speakers (65-93). The interviews are primarily conducted in English, but many of the speakers also use Pidgin, especially when performing reported speech. The analysis examines variables, such as grammatical person and a speaker's gender, that are known to correlate with quotative forms in other varieties of English (Winter 2002; Barbieri 2005; Tagliamonte & D'Arcy 2007; Barbieri 2009). Additionally, we examine a new predicting factor — the language variety used to voice the reported speech or thought — and we compare the trends to variation that stems from code-shifting between the varieties. The results demonstrate a shift in apparent time toward be like in Hawai'i English, a shift that does not appear to be led by either males or females. A mixed effects model fit to the data indicate that the younger a speaker is, the more likely they are to use be like (p<.0001), especially with first person subjects (p<.05). The data also show that, for tokens that have either overt or underlying third person subjects, the shift to be like is less pronounced when the reported speech contains Pidgin (p<.05). When reporting Pidgin, the null quotative is especially common. Younger speakers' resistance to be like when the reported speech contains Pidgin may be related to the low numbers of be like found in our Pidgin data (be like was found in only 4% of tokens when the participants were speaking Pidgin). In other words, speakers are less likely to use be like when speaking Pidgin and, possibly as a sort of anticipatory priming effect, are less likely to produce be like when the reported speech
			system.
11/24/2015	Jonathan (Cheng-Chuen) Kuo, UH- Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	The polysemy of CV marking in Formosan languages: An event structure analysis	http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/Ling-seminar Jonathan-Kuo-2015.pdf
12/1/2015	Brenda Clark, Linda Lambrecht, Samantha Rarrick, Claire Stabile & James Woodward, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Documentation of Hawai'i Sign Language: An Overview of Some Recent Major Research Findings	http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/ABSTRACT-FOR-DOCUMENTATION-OF-HAWAII-SIGN-LANGUAGE.pdf
12/8/2015	No seminar scheduled.		