SPRING 2015

DATE	SPEAKER/AFFILATION	TITLTE	ABSTRACT
1/20/2015	Samantha Rarrick UHM-Linguistics Department	Evaluating the Status of Kere: Language or Dialect?	According to Ethnologue, Sinasina (sst) is a language with two dialects (Tabare and Guna) spoken in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. This summer, I traveled to Chimbu province in this region in order to conduct research on Kere, a then unreported variety which was suspected to be an additional dialect of Sinasina. Speakers reported that Kere and Tabare were quite similar, so my primary goal was to evaluate mutual intelligibility between the two. Surveys, interviews, and word lists were collected, and the preliminary results are presented in this talk. Late last semester, I made another short trip with Dr. Andrea Berez to the community. During this time, documentation of Kere started and we further considered whether Tabare and Kere are dialects of a single language or separate languages. The dynamic of cultural and linguistic contact in this region is very complex and interesting, which makes evaluating mutual intelligibility especially difficult and there is still work to be done.
2/3/2015	Dr. Jeffrey Reaser NC State University (English Dept)	Operationalizing Linguistic Gratuity: Documenting and Conserving Language in North Carolina	Abstract: Dr. Jeffrey Reaser will discuss community engagement strategies that have evolved over nearly two decades of research and extension work by the North Carolina Language and Life Project (NCLLP). His presentation will include vignettes from the NCLLP's most recent documentary film, First Language: The Race to Save Cherokee, as well as vignettes and lessons learned from previous extension projects. Bio: Jeffrey Reaser is an Associate Professor of English at NC State University where he coordinates the secondary English education program and contributes to the North CarolinaLanguage and Life Project. His research examines the effectiveness of formal and public education linguistics projects. With Walt Wolfram, he co-authored Talkin' Tar Heel: How Our Voices Tell the Story of North Carolina (2014), which was nominated for the Linguistics Society of America's Leonard Bloomfield award. He has served on the American Dialect Society and the editorial boards of American Speech and Language. This talk is sponsored by the Charlene Sato Center for Pidgin and Creole Languages and is supported by a UHM Diversity and Equity Initiative grant. For more information about the event, please contact Christina Higgins at cmhiggin@hawaii.edu or Katie Drager at kdrager@hawaii.edu.
2/10/2015	Alexander Smith UHM-Linguistics Department	The Western Malayo-Polynesian Problem	The current consensus view of Austronesian major higher order subgroups assumes a Western Malayo-Polynesian (WMP) group within the larger Malayo-Polynesian group, including the languages of the Philippines, western Indonesia, Malaysia, Sulawesi, Cham, Malagasy, Chamorro, and Palauan. Blust was the first to make this proposal, which has been repeated in the general literature and enjoys wide acceptance. Until now there has been no serious attempt at a careful scrutiny of the Western Malayo-Polynesian subgroup. There are, however, problems with proposing a Western Malayo-Polynesian group of languages, including the historical implications of having WMP and Central-Eastern Malayo-Polynesian (CEMP) represent the only two primary subgroups of MP, archaeological mismatches between historical population movements and the current consensus family tree, a lack of robust linguistic evidence for WMP, and the presence of limited yet intriguing counter evidence that suggest that WMP is in fact not a valid subgroup. The aim of presentation is to critically analyze the implications of a WMP model, and to propose a new subgrouping model that removes WMP and replaces it with several primary branches of MP in an effort to reconcile the linguistic and archaeological realities of the expansion and diversification of Proto Malayo-Polynesian.

Date	Speaker	Title	Abstract/Link
2/17/2015	Dr. Nanna H. Hilton University of Groningen (Dept. of Frisian Language & Culture)	Mutual Intelligibility Between Speakers of Closely Related Languages	Abstract: In my talk I will present some projects past and present of the research group *Mutual Intelligibility between Closely Related Languages* (Micrela) at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. The central question for the work of the group is whether we can identify cognitive, social and linguistic (beyond lexical) factors that are particularly influential for understanding a closely related language variety. Whilst the group works on languages found across the European continent I will present case studies from the North Germanic (Mainland Scandinavian) and West Germanic (Frisian) language continuum in my talk. These case studies demonstrate some different ways of measuring intelligibility, and give evidence that a number of phonological and morpho-syntactic traits are influential for understanding a speaker of a closely related variety. Social factors, on the other hand, such as language attitudes and sporadic contact, bear little effect on intelligibility levels. I end the presentation with a short discussion of how intelligibility research can be applied to (European) language policy making, education, and automatic speech recognition. Bio: Nanna H Hilton holds a PhD in linguistics from the University of York, where her work focussed on linguistic variation in East Norwegian and the relationship between standard language ideology and loss of local dialects. She is currently assistant professor of sociolinguistics in the Department of Frisian Language and Culture at the University of Groningen where her research centres on prosodic and phonological variation in the minority language Frisian. She is also connected to a project investigating receptive bilingualism and mutual intelligibility between closely related languages in Europe (Micrela), where her main topics for investigation are the effects of phonetics and language attitudes on speech comprehension.
2/24/2015	Victoria Chen & Dr. Shinichiro Fukuda UHM-Linguistics Department & UHM-East-Asian Languages & Literatures Department	Three Ways to "Steal" an Element from a CP: Evidence from Three Formosan Languages	http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/ChenFukudaAbstract.pdf
3/3/2015	Dr. Paul Heggarty Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthrology, Leipzig (Dept. of Linguistics)	A Brave New World for 'Diversity Linguistics'? Big Data, Quantitative Analysis, Evolutionary Modelling and the Genomic Revolution	http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/A-Brave-New-World-for-Diversity-Linguistics-by-Paul-Haggarty-March-2015.pdf
3/10/2015	Dr. Robert Blust & Yen-Ling Chen UHM-Linguistics Department	The Austro-Tai Hypothesis: Fact or Fiction?	Claims of distant genetic relationship are nearly always exposed as contrivances made possible by supplementing the comparative method with a panoply of illicit devices that allow chance resemblance to be presented as systematic correspondence. The Austro-Tai hypothesis began as a serious claim proposed by Paul K. Benedict in 1942, but was transformed into a model of methodological chaos when Benedict returned to the topic in 1967, and especially in his 1975 book, *Austro-Thai: language and culture*. In this book, and its 1990 sequel, *Japanese/Austro-Tai*, such violence was done to basic principles of science that few linguists were able to take the argument seriously. Ironically, it now appears that Benedict probably was right, but that he damaged his cause so fundamentally during his own lifetime through overzealous pursuit of an idea that he drove away even his closest would-be supporters. The Austro-Tai hypothesis thus thus stands as a striking example of the difference between the sociology of science and scientific truth.
3/17/2015	Dr. Shigeo Tonoike Aoyama Gakuin University (English Dept)	A General Theory of *WH-* Questions	http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/Tonoike-Abstract-March-17.pdf
SPECIAL THURSDAY SEMINAR 3/19/2015 9:00 - 10:15 AM (Moore 575)	Dr. Judy Bernstein William Paterson University	Syntactic Correspondences Across Varieties of English	http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/BernsteinHawaiiAbstract.pdf

3/31/2015	Dr. Phillip Endicott Musee De L'Homme Paris	Towards an Inter-Disciplinary History of Polynesia: The Population Genetics of the Society Islands and their Implications for the Settlement History of Eastern Polynesia	Phylogenetic and network approaches to language prehistory link the clade of Eastern Polynesian languages with that of the Northern 'Outliers', but historically both are presumed to have originated from Western Polynesia. From within the field of comparative linguistics comes the more radical suggestion that the Northern 'Outliers' were the source for Eastern Polynesian languages, which is contrary to the often unchallenged assumption that the 'Outliers' are the result of a demographic 'backwash', associated with the geographical expansion of Polynesian speaking peoples ~1000-1200 years ago. Ideally, an informed reconstruction of Polynesian history would involve a synthesis of archaeological, genetic, linguistic, and other cultural data. Of these, population genetics may play a critical role in unraveling the past history of the region, but genetic data sets are absent for some key areas. Here, as a first step towards a unified approach, I will present new genetic data from Bora Bora, Raiatea, and Tahaa in the Societies, and discuss their implications for understanding the origins, direction, and timing of Polynesian migrations.
4/14/2015	Talk 1: Kyubyong Park, UHM-Linguistics Department Talk 2: Kirsten Helgeson, UHM-Linguistics Department	Talk 1: Development of Korean Conjugation App Talk 2: Creating a Geographic Information System (GIS) for Language Data Using Limited Information from the Field: A PNG Highlands Example	Talk 1: To master conjugation of a second language is challenging. Memorizing a few lines of rules is often not enough. A conjugation table, or a verb paradigm, showing various word-forms of a verb can be of practical help in applying different word-forms to real life as well as in better understanding of the rules. There are many books that present conjugation tables of hundreds of main verbs in different languages. Several years ago, I compiled a Korean version of such a book, which contains 500 basic Korean verbs and dozens of word-forms for each verb. Subsequently, my friend and I have worked on a mobile application which provides much richer conjugation tables for all of the Korean verbs. In this presentation I will share the basic ideas for it. The following will be discussed. A. What is a verb conjugator? B. What do current Korean verb conjugators look like? C. How can I improve the existing ones? D. What have I done so far? E. Future works Talk 2: The places where we live, work, travel, and otherwise interact with form the backdrop if not play a central role in stories and conversations. In addition, spatial and geographic referencing can be grammaticalized in various ways. As such, recording place-based information that is relevant to speakers of a language can serve as an important component of that language's documentation. This presentation focuses on one method of creating a geographic information system (GIS) using limited field resources and the open source software QGIS. Place name data collected in the Alekano language in the Eastern Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea are used as an example.
4/21/2015	Kevin Baetscher UHM-Linguistics Department	Interclausal and Intraclausal Linking Elements in Hul'q'umi'num Salish	My study investigates linking elements in Hul'q'umi'num', the dialect of Halkomelem Salish spoken on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Hul'q'umi'num' has two interclausal linkers: the coordinator ʔiʔ and the subordinator ʔəw̓. In addition to occurring in straightforwardly biclausal constructions, these linking elements also occur between a variety of modals and adverbs and the elements they modify, raising the question: are such constructions monoclausal or biclausal? The morphosyntactic evidence, based on the placement of subject NPs, enclitics, auxiliaries and subordinate suffixes, reveals that these adverbial constructions do not form a homogenous group. Adverbial constructions with ʔəw̓ are always monoclausal, while modal and adverbial constructions with ʔiʔ range from monoclausal to biclausal. I argue against an analysis that assumes homophones of ʔiʔ, but instead propose that its range of uses can be related to the notion of topicality. I demonstrate that very similar multifunctionality is attested for conjunctions in other languages. Keywords: Salish, Halkomelem, linkers, adverbs.

Date	Presenter	Title	Abstract
4/28/2015	Clinton Awai UHM-Linguistics Department	Indirect Constructions of Hindi: A Syntactic Analysis Whith the Minimalist Program	Hindi is a member of the Indo-European language family with SOV word order. Hindi contains many of the expected canonical patterns for the various sentence constructions. However, some constructions do not fit the typological expectations. These are sometimes called indirect constructions. These constructions are by no means Hindi-specific. They appear in many other languages and are often referred to by such labels as psych verbs, dative subjects or experiencer subject constructions. The historic loss of much of the inflectional morphology in the Indian subcontinent has created a rich modern language like Hindi that relies on case markers and word order to maintain the semantic meanings. This has led to some interesting implications on aspects of agreement and other syntactic features. One aspect of these constructions that make them unique to Hindi is that the indirectness often relies on the combination of word order and case markers as opposed to a class of verbs. In this presentation I will look at constructions in Hindi and analyze them within the Minimalist framework, looking at the syntactic implications and functions of the case markers, feature and case checking, and Hindi's unique agreement system. I will look at both the direct (canonical) and indirect constructions and discuss the various indirect types.
5/5/2015	Kavon Hooshiar & Sejung Yang UHM-Linguistics Department	This Year in LDTC: Recent Updates and Future Initiatives	As the current co-directors of LDTC, we would like to take this opportunity to update you on events in LDTC during recent semesters as well as plans for the future. Our aim is to increase department-wide awareness of the current status of LDTC and facilitate a discussion in order to elicit feedback about our current plans and direction. In doing so we hope to increase institutional memory and continuity among the leadership of the program. Those interested in being involved with the leadership of the program are especially encouraged to attend.