Spring 2016

DATE	SPEAKER/AFFILATION	TITLTE	ABSTRACT
1/12/2016	Dr. Abby Walker, Assistant Professor of Linguistics Dept. of English-Virginia Tech University	Having accents and hearing accents: exploring listener differences in language processing	Unfamiliar dialects bear processing costs in a variety of listening tasks. In this talk, I discuss how the effect of dialectal variation is mitigated by attitude, mood, and whether the listener self-identifies as having an accent. Specifically, I will discuss the results of two studies using different methodologies: in a listening in noise task, southern listeners who report being accented are better at understanding non-native speech in noise than unaccented listeners, and in a false memory paradigm task, listeners who report anti-Asian biases perform worse with non-native speech than those without such biases. In discussing these results, I'll consider both representational and attentional explanations for such effects.
1/19/2016	*No seminar scheduled.*		
1/26/2016	Dr. Gary Holton, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Up and down in the coast in Halmahera, Indonesia	The languages of Indonesia exhibit a variety of spatial orientation systems. Austronesian languages typically employ absolute systems in which a primary landward-seaward axis is contrasted with a secondary axis determined ultimately by wind directions (Adelaar 1997). Many Papuan languages employ elevation-based systems which contrast high, low and level relative to the deictic center (cf. Schapper 2014). The languages of Halmahera Island in Eastern Indonesia make use of yet another type of system, which is in some respects a hybrid of the landward-seaward and elevation-based systems. These languages have absolute systems which contrast a landward-seaward axis with an orthogonal upward-downward axis. Though it may be colexified with up and down in the vertical sense, this upward-downward axis primarily indicates direction parallel to the coast in the horizontal dimension, orthogonal to the landward-seaward axis. Although the syntactic details vary slightly among the languages, the basic semantics of the up-down distinction are remarkably consistent across both Austronesian and Papuan languages of the region. The orientation of the landward-seaward axis is very clearly determined by local geography, but the orientation of the upward-downward axis is seemingly arbitrary. Previous authors have attempted to correlate the choice of up versus down direction with social status (cf. Bowden 1997, Teljeur 1987). However, our work reveals a prominent geographic correlation. Drawing on both existing documentation and a new survey conducted in 2014 we present the first comprehensive map of coastal orientation in Halmahera, revealing an overall pattern in which upcoast indicates direction into a bay. Local exceptions can be readily explained based on historical migrations and social relationships, but geography remains the dominant determinant of direction. We suggest further that the existing system of upcoast versus downcoast orientation has its origins in the riverine directional system still used by forest dwelling peoples in Halmahera. References: Adelaar, K. Alexander. 1997. An exploration of directional systems in West Indonesia and Madagascar. Referring to Space: Studies in Austronesian and Papuan Languages, ed. by G. Senft, 53-82. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Bowden, John. 1997. The meanings of directionals in Taba. Referring to Space: Studies in Austronesian and Papuan Languages, ed. by G. Senft, 251-68. (Oxford Studies in Anthropological Linguistics 11). Oxford: Clarendon. Schapper, Antoinette. 2014. Elevation in the spatial deictic systems of Alor-Pantar languages. Alor-Pantar Languages: History and Typology, ed. by M. Klamer, 247-84. Berlin: Language Sciences Press. Teljeur, Dirk. 1987. Spatial orientation among the Giman of South Halmahera. Halmahera dan Raja Ampat Sebagai Kesatuan Yang Majemuk, ed. by E.K.M. Masinambow, 347-66. Jarkarta: Lembaga Ekonomi dan Kemasyarakatan Nasional.
2/2/2016	Bob Holman, Poet	Language Matters	Bob Holman is a poet whose research into the roots of spoken word/hip hop/slam poetics resulted in his becoming an activist – a "language warrior" in the words of Larry Kimura – to bring attention to the growing tide of disappearing languages around the globe. Taking his cue from David Crystal – "Where are the artists in this? Where are the operas, where are the poems?" Holman has been making films about what we lose when we lose a language and how they are being kept alive. He is currently on a Ford Foundation traveling fellowship to bring his PBS film "Language Matters," made with David Grubin, recently spending a month in Alaska and now traveling through Hawaii. At the Colloquium he will screen and perform "Khonsay: Poem of Many Tongues," a single poem in 50 minority/endangered languages. The full "Language Matters" – filmed in Hawaii Australia, and Wales, winner of Best Documentary at last year's Berkeley Video/Film Festival, and in which David Crystal appears — will be screened several times in Honolulu this week.
2/9/2016	*No seminar scheduled.*		

2/16/2016	Dr. Tyler Heston, University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa	When is Diphthong not a Diphthong? Complex nuclei in Fataluku	Determining the underlying representation of complex segments, such as long vowels and diphthongs, poses a significant analytical challenge, since there is no one-to-one mapping from surface to underlying forms. For instance, a surface diphthong could be derived from a sequence of two vowels, from a sequence of a vowel and a glide, from a simple vowel which has been diphthongized or from an true underlying diphthong phoneme. In this talk, I present a comprehensive analysis of complex nuclei in Fataluku, a Papuan language of East Timor, based on evidence from phonological behavior, phonotactic distributions and phonetic realizations. This evidence shows that, contrary to the vast array of complex nuclei found on the surface, Fataluku has no true underlying diphthong phonemes. Almost all surface long vowels and diphthongs are derived from underlying vowel sequences. There does exist, however, a small class of surface diphthongs that are formed from glide-vowel sequences—distinguishable from underlyingly vowel-vowel diphthongs on the basis of their distribution and their effects on syllable weight. After presenting the phonological facts, I discuss the applications of these analyses to writing system design, emphasizing the important differences between phonemic transcriptions and orthography design with examples from current collaborative work with East Timor's Ministry of Education.
2/23/2016	Mark Liberman	A cross-linguistic study of prosodic focus	We've devised a way of studying prosodic focus experimentally, in production and perception, with material that is neutral in syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, and is essentially the same for all languages. Using corrective focus in digit strings, we find that in some languages, purely prosodic focus is clearly marked in production (by bigger pitch range, amplitude, and duration), and is accurately recognized in perception; while in other languages, prosodic focus is not clearly marked in production, and is not accurately recognized in perception. Each language uses its own prosodic resources for this task, but the striking differences in focus-marking success do not seem to be determined by any previously-described typological feature. So for now, this must be regarded as (an indicator of) a new typological dimension, or as a function of a (new or old?) typological space. [Joint work with Yong-cheol Lee, Sunghye Cho, Bei Wang, Sisi Chen, Martine Adda-Decker, Angélique Amelot, and Satoshi Nambu.]
3/1/2016	Kazue Takeda1, Mari Umeda2, Makiko Hirakawa1, Michiko Fukuda1, Yahiro Hirakawa3, John Matthews4, & Neal Snape2, (1) Bunkyo University; (2) Gunma Prefectural Women's University; (3) Tokyo Institute of Technology; (4) Chuo University	An experimental investigation of a three-way classification of the Japanese reflexive zibun: A preliminary study	http://ling.hawaii.edu/wp-content/uploads/3.1.2016_HirakawaKakenTalk.pdf
3/8/2016	Dr. Lyle Campbell, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Linguist on the Loose	In this talk I attempt to answer questions that I have been asked by students and colleagues over the years that I avoided giving answers to. In answering the questions, I attempt also to offer general observations and object lessons perhaps of relevance for linguists generally. Both the questions and the answers come from the perspectives and a worldview evolved in a 50-year career in Linguistics.
3/15/2016	*No seminar scheduled.*		
3/22/2016	*No seminar scheduled. - SPRING BREAK -*		

Date	Speaker	Title	Abstract
3/29/2016	Dr. Hannah Sarvasy, Australian National University	Beads off the string: broken clause chains in Nungon adult and child speech	Recent years have seen the burgeoning of typological literature on desubordinated (or 'insubordinate') non-finite verbs in adult speech around the world (Evans 2007, Mithun 2008). At the same time, child language acquisition researchers continue to debate the reasons for 'root infinitives' (Rizzi 1994): non-finite verbs serving as sole predicates in main clauses in child speech. Lasser (2002) effectively situates European children's root infinitives within the worldwide adult speech phenomenon of non-finite verbs in main clauses. In fact, desubordinated non-finite verbs should occur in late-stage acquisition of all languages for which the phenomenon is attested in adult speech, but this has not yet been examined cross-linguistically. Children learning the Papuan language Nungon show mastery of at least some of the functions of desubordinated medial verbs that Sarvasy (2015b) catalogued in adult speech. Nungon child-directed speech has a higher percentage of independent medial verbs than does an adult language documentation corpus. A related facet of Nungon child-directed speech is the repeated rewording of directives using a finite form, an independent non-finite form, and different dedicated imperative forms, until the child complies.
3/31/2016	Bradley McDonnell, University of California, Santa Barbara	Symmetrical voice constructions in Besemah	Over the past two decades, notions of symmetrical voice—a voice system with two or more transitive constructions, neither of which is clearly derived from the other—have garnered much attention in western Austronesian languages (e.g., Foley 2008, Himmelmann 2005). In-depth analyses of these symmetrical voice systems, particularly in the languages of western Indonesia, have focused primarily on the syntactic nature of symmetrical voice (e.g., Riesberg 2014). We are now in a position to carry these questions further, examining not only how symmetrical voice constructions function syntactically, but also how they pattern in terms of information structure and information flow. Based on the documentation of Besemah, a little-known Malay isolect of southwest Sumatra, this talk brings together the syntax of symmetrical voice with patterns found in discourse from two different directions. The first explores the unique syntactic patterns of 'quantifier float' in symmetrical voice constructions, demonstrating how these floating quantifiers mark focus within the clause. The second takes a broader perspective by investigating voice selection in a corpus of Besemah conversation. Utilizing mixed-effects regression modeling, this study shows how various information flow factors affect a speakers' choice of one voice over the other.
4/5/2016	*No seminar scheduled.*		
4/12/2016	Bryn Hauk & Anna Belew, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	The Catalogue of Endangered Languages: Ushering ELCat into the future	The end of the 2015-2016 academic year is a defining moment in the history of the *Catalogue of Endangered Languages* (*ELCat*), marking the official end of the funded project and the transition of the governance of *ELCat*. In this seminar, we reflect on the *ELCat* project's achievements (its history, activities, products, and contributions) and we report on its projected future. We present the kinds of new knowledge produced by *ELCat*, together with the project's impact on the academic community and wider audiences via the *Endangered Language Project* (*ELP*) website. Finally, we disclose exciting new developments in *ELCat*'s future. We invite UH scholars and students to join in to contribute to the information and materials on the website and to help steer *ELCat* as it assumes its role in the future.

4/19/2016	Dr. Hiroko Sato, NEH & NSF Fellow, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics & East-West Center	Gender and marital status marking in Bebeli and its related languages	Bebeli is one of the very severely endangered Oceanic languages spoken in the West New Britain region of Papua New Guinea. For all community members, the language has been replaced in every domain by Tok Pisin, a lingua franca in PNG. Moreover, younger generations are not learning the language anymore. The last four remaining fluent speakers with solid knowledge of the language and traditional concepts are all over 70 years old. Bebeli has very complex and atypical structures. One of the uncommon features for an Oceanic language is that Bebeli has a gender distinction in the pronoun system. According to Blust (2013: 320), Austronesian languages "rarely mark pronominal gender." However, Bebeli has a gender distinction on the pronouns: pu 'masculine', ti 'feminine', and e / i 'neuter.' And pu and ti are used for all three functional categories, namely independent, subject marker, and possessive (possessor). Neuter e is used as a subject marker and possessive, but not for the subject of a predicate or an object. Neuter i is used as an object pronoun. In addition to the pronoun system, this gender distinction also appears on articles: pa 'masculine' and ta 'feminine.' These articles are used not only with personal names, but also with high-animacy nouns such as: widow, old person, police, and teacher. While Bebeli marks only the gender distinction in the third person singular, two of it's most closely related languages have the distinction in both the third person singular and third person plural pronouns. In addition, they have a marital status distinction on pronouns and articles. In this talk, I will first discuss the gender distinction on pronouns of Bebeli, and then examine the gender forms of articles and their usage. Finally, I will present the pronouns of its most closely related languages and discuss how the gender and marital status distinctions are distributed. Reference: Blust, Robert A. 2013. The Austronesian languages. Canberra: Asia-Pacific Linguistics.
4/26/2016	Dr. Andrea Berez-Kroeker, Meagan Dailey, Ryan Henke, Dr. Gary Holton & Kavon Hooshiar, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Developing Standards for Data Citation and Attribution for Reproducible Research in Linguistics: A project report	In this talk we discuss *reproducible research* as it potentially applies to linguistics. Reproducible research has received considerable attention in recent years in the physical, social and computational sciences as a paradigm for providing accountability for research claims by enabling access to the data sets on which those claims are based. We discuss the current state of the field of linguistics with regard to reproducibility, and present our ongoing NSF-sponsored project to develop standards for data citation and attribution from the ground up. (NSF SMA-1447886)

5/3/2016	Dr. David Stampe, UH-Mānoa, Department of Linguistics	Clarity and Fluency: Phonological insights of Patricia Donegan	A review, on the occasion of her retirement. of some of Patricia's Donegan's many contributions to phonetic, phonological, and prosodic theory, by her most devoted student. Topics may include: 1. Analysis of vowel systems of the world as obeying constraints based on innate processes each optimizing a prototypical vocalic trait of palatality, labiality, or sonority (I, U, A). 2. Resolution of the articulatory incompatibility of those traits by assimilation (IU > Ü, IA > E, AU > O) vs dissimilation (Ü > IU or UI, E > AI or IA, O > AU or UA), i.e. by maximizing fluency vs clarity. 3. Fortitions First, Lenitions Last – If in speech production all applicable clarity processes (Fortitions) apply simultaneously, and then all applicable fluency processes (Lenitions) apply simultaneously, the language-specific "rule ordering" of Chomsky & Halle is unnecessary. (With a surprising new example.) 4. Discovery that processes apply purely to phonetic values in rhythmic domains (the beginnings, rises, falls, or ends of syllables, "feet", etc.), never refer to segments per se, whereas morphonological rules refer to phonemes (never allophones) in grammatical domains. 5. Reviewing evidence that well before they use words, children perceive the phonemic intention of adult speech, so that acquisition is clearly nothing like philological or fieldwork methods of surveying lists to find which "phonetically similar" symbols or sounds are in contrastive distribution. Showing how Natural Phonology predicts that perception is phonological from the start. 6. Doing battle with superfluous or wrong theories – lexical phonology, markedness, dispersion, chain shifts, underspecification, exemplars, "phonologization" of putative language-specific "phonetic" rules, optimality theory. 7. Exploring the oppositeness of languages with falling vs rising word and phrase rhythm in every level of structure from phonetics to syntax, and its reflections in language acquisition and change.
5/10/2016 **LOCATON: Tokioka Room, Moore 319**	Dr. Mary Walworth, DEL & NSF Fellow, l'Université de la Polynésie française & UHM-Linguistics Department	Trickledown Endangerment: The role of Tahitian in French Polynesia	Tahitian, the indigenous language of the French Polynesian island of Tahiti, is becoming increasingly endangered due to the decline of its general use and its intergenerational transmission. However, while the language's use steadily decreases in Tahiti, throughout the rest of French Polynesia where Tahitian is an introduced language, it is thriving. In this talk, I explore the role of Tahitian in French Polynesia through language-use surveys and interviews with educators and officials, which were conducted both in Tahiti and in the outer islands. I present Tahiti as an economic, political, educational, social, and religious center for the region and I demonstrate how its prestigious role in this capacity has led to extensive linguistic and cultural influence and subsequent language replacement in the outer islands. In this talk, I first describe the reasons for Tahitian's endangerment in Tahiti, and then I investigate how Tahitian has come to threaten lesser-spoken languages outside of Tahiti. Finally, I examine the future of the Tahitian language in Tahiti and how its continued decline will certainly affect language throughout French Polynesia. Dr. Mary Walworth is a Post-Doctoral Fellow with the National Science Foundation Documenting Endangered Languages program and a Visiting Researcher and Instructor at l'Université de la Polynésie française. Her work centers on the documentation of lesser-spoken languages of French Polynesia, and her research focuses on language contact, change, and shift in greater Polynesia. Oceania Ensemble is sponsored by CPIS, IPLL, French and LLEA and is an initiative dedicated to increasing awareness and visibility of both UH and international creative and critical scholarship and the arts in the French-speaking Pacific.