

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS
M.A. LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY**

CORE COURSE					
COURSE CODE	COURSE TITLE	CONTACT HRS/WEEK			CREDITS
		LEC	FIELD	TUT	
LLT5204	FIELD LINGUISTICS	4	1	1	4

Lec = Lecture, Tut = Tutorial, Field = Fieldwork

LLT5204: FIELD LINGUISTICS

Objectives

The course focuses on language as it is spoken and our ability as researchers to render that language in a form that is suitable for analysis. Students will learn how to collect/record data, how to manage and store it and how to go about analysing it for a range of purposes, including language description and contrastive analysis.

- Develop an orientation towards field linguistics
- Enables the students to deal with the context in which data collection takes place and will address research ethics and protocols, the Observer's Paradox among others
- Develop an understanding of the practicalities of recording, transcribing (both broad and narrow IPA transcription), organising (tagging) and archiving data
- Enable them to look at the nature of the language data that is being recorded: oral vs written; natural speech versus elicited speech; ethnography of communication; varieties of language, borrowing, code-switching, style-shifting and diglossia
- Make awareness about a range of analytical approaches

Outcomes

- Be aware of ethical considerations and observe protocols in linguistic fieldwork
- Learn how to record and document languages
- Be able to transcribe recordings in IPA (both broad and narrow transcription)
- Be familiar with data storage and archive maintenance
- Be able to use dedicated linguistic databases and Softwares
- Be able to apply linguistic analytical procedures
- Develop strategies for language elicitation and language learning in one-on-one contexts
- Be able to identify and present a description and analysis of an aspect of a language

Unit I

Introduction to Field study, value of the context, Linguistic field work, preparation for field work, Field tools - Notebook/field diary, Camera, Tape Recorder, Dilemmas of field work - Getting access, Getting acceptance, maintaining acceptance, Collecting data, richness of data, Ethical concerns, Pains of fieldwork, Cultural shock, symptoms of cultural shock, Field ethics

Unit II

Study approaches: Overview, generate hypothesis, principles of field work, natural settings, holistic, descriptive, insider's view, Field methods, techniques of data collection, observation, question, respondent, key informant, focus groups, frequency of data collection, sampling, Test procedures - pilot study, sample survey, Major approaches, Qualitative vs. quantitative, defined by format & data collection process ("Integrated Methods"), Interrogation techniques, Translation, Techniques for polysemous words, Pictorial representation, Associative interrogation, The paraphrase method, Cross checking, Stimulus response method, Instantiation method, Phonetic transcription

Unit III

Observation method, Descriptive observation, Focused observation, Selective observation, Participation (or combinations of them), Active and Passive Participation, Observation: Participant and Non participant observation, Advantages and disadvantages, Questionnaire method, Questionnaire Surveys, Advantages, Disadvantages, Combining survey/data collection types Registered data, Non-registered data, Point data, Continuous data

Unit IV

Interview method-structured or unstructured conversational and informal), Self-reporting techniques, Structured and Unstructured Interviews, Open-ended interviewing, Ethnographic Interview, Standardized interview, qualitative interviews? In-depth Interview, Informal conversational, Topical or guided, Standardized open, Ethnographic or micro-ethnographic, Focus Group, Key informant interviews, contextual inquiry, Field notes, Documentary source method

Unit V

Data processing, Language Documentation, Types of media, video, audio, Images, Text, Metadata, Cataloguing, data formats, data encoding, physical storage medium, software tools, Archiving, Intellectual protocol and access to material.

Reading List:

Anvita Abbi. 2001, A Manual of Linguistic Field Work and Structures of Indian Languages, Lincom Europa,
Newman and Ratliff (eds) 2000, Introduction and Chapter 1 from: Linguistic Fieldwork. CUP, Cambridge
Wray et al. Arnold, 1998, Projects in Linguistics, A Practical Guide to Researching Language, London.

Text book:

Crowley, Terry & Nick Thieberger. *Field Linguistics: A Beginner's Guide*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

Samarin, W.J. 1967. *Field Linguistics: Guide to Linguistic Field Work*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

Essential Readings:

Abbi, Anvita. *A Manual of Linguistics Field Work and Indian Language Structures*. (Munich: Lincom Europa, 2001).

Briggs, Charles L. *Learning How to Ask: A Sociolinguistic Appraisal of the Role of the Interview in Social Science Research*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986).

Burling, Robbins. *Learning a Field Language*. (Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press, 2000).

Suggested Reading

Crowley, T. 2007. *Field Linguistics. A Beginner's Guide*. Oxford: OUP.

Newman, Paul and Martha Ratliff (Eds.). 2001. *Linguistic Fieldwork*. Cambridge.

Barnes, J.A. 1973. Some ethical problems in modern fieldwork. *British Journal of Sociology* 14: 118-134.

Jost Gippert (Ed) 2006 *Essentials of Language Documentation*. Mouton de Gruyter Berlin • New York

Longacre, Robert E. 1964. *Grammar Discovery Procedures: A Field Manual*. Mouton.

Newman, Paul. 1992. Fieldwork and field methods in linguistics. *California Linguistic Newsletter*. XXIII.2.

Nida, Eugene. 1947. Field techniques in descriptive linguistics. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 13: 138-146.