

KISII UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS
PhD IN LINGUISTICS
FEBRUARY -MAY ,2022

COURSE CODE: LING 924
COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED LINGUISTIC FIELD METHODS
CREDIT FACTOR: 4.0 [60 CONTACT HOURS]
COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. MARGARET BARASA, PhD
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LING 924: Purpose

To furnish the students with salient field methods employed in linguistics.

Course Description

Introduction to the theory and practice of linguistic analysis in the field. Informant selection, data elicitation, methods of fieldwork.

Course objectives:

1. To arm students with the skills to do linguistic field work.
2. To gain better understanding of how to collect data in natural environments

Expected Learning outcomes

The learners should be able:

1. to collect accurate data on a language
2. to work in an ethical manner with respect to the target language, community and the profession

Course Content

Introduction to linguistic field methods. Sampling techniques, Sampling protocol, Randomization,; Research instruments; Hypothesis testing; Literature review; Research methodology, data gathering tools; Analysis of data; Methods of data storage (archiving); recording systems; data annotation; Data analysis procedures; methods of getting suitable respondents. Language documentation; preparing for fieldwork; working with speakers; data management; grant writing; ethical fieldwork; use of technology; identifying places to work; philosophical and historical perspectives to fieldwork.

CONTENT DISTRIBUTION

WEEK 1

Reasons for carrying out field work
Selecting Informants

WEEK 2

Collecting and organizing data

Transcription

WEEK 3

Basic Lexicography

- Approaches to vocabulary collection

WEEK 4

Semantic issues arising during field work

WEEK 5

Basic Phonetics

- Articulatory Phonetics
- Acoustic Phonetics

WEEK 6

Basic Phonology

- Segmental Phonology
- Prosodic Phonology

WEEK 7

Syntax

- Collection techniques

Morphology

Pragmatics

WEEK 8

Sociolinguistics and dialectology collection Techniques

Historical Linguistics collection Techniques

WEEK 9

Text Collections

Mode of Delivery

Lectures, Presentations on assigned topics, handouts.

Course Assessment

End of semester examination

Core Reading Materials

Bowern, Claire. 2008. *Linguistic fieldwork: A practical guide*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.

Samarin, William. 1967. *Field linguistics: A guide to linguistic field work*. New York: Henry Holt.

Recommended Reference Materials

Chelliah, Shobhana T., and Willem J. de Reuse. 2010. *Handbook of descriptive linguistic fieldwork*. Berlin: Springer.

Crowley, Terry. 2007. *Field Linguistics: A beginner's guide*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press.

Payne, Thomas E. 2010. Review of Terry Crowley. *Field linguistics: A beginner's guide*. *Language Documentation and Conservation* 4:90–96.

KISII UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
MAIN CAMPUS

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS) FIRST SEMESTER, 2022

FEBRUARY -MAY, 2022

ENGL 924: ADVANCED LINGUISTIC FIELD METHODS

TIME: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer all the questions in this paper (60 Marks)

1. Explain the guidelines followed when interacting with an informant on a linguistic level (10 marks)
2. Discuss some of the common transcription traps into which seasoned linguists often fall (10 marks)
3. With regard to vocabulary elicitation, explain any five factors you would consider about what and how to elicit. (10 marks)
4. Describe how you would use the following instruments to study articulations in informants' language. Provide the merits and demerits of both methods (10 marks)
 - (i) Palatography;
 - (ii) Electroglottography
5. Discuss what a language game might reveal about the structure of the language you are studying. (10 marks)
6. When dealing with syntax elicitation, explain how you would obtain accurate and reliable grammatical judgments from the informant. (10 marks)

