Swarthmore College

Works

Fall 2017

Structure Of Wamesa (LING 067) Syllabus

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Recommended Citation

Structure of Wamesa
Ling 067
Fall 2017
Instructor: Prof. Emily Gasser
Wednesdays, 1:15-4pm
Pearson 115

General Info

<u>Instructor</u>: Prof. Emily Gasser

- EMAIL: egasser1@swarthmore.edu

- OFFICE: Pearson 104

- OFFICE HOURS: Mon 11am-noon
  or by appointment

<u>Course website</u>: There is a Moodle site for this course. Readings, assignments, and other files will be posted there; please check it regularly.

Description

Wamesa is a member of the under-studied South Halmahera-West New Guinea subgroup of the Austronesian language family, with roughly 5000 speakers in West Papua, Indonesia. This course will rely on both primary data, including my fieldnotes and recordings, and published work to look at the phonology, morphology, and syntax of the language. We'll also look at Wamesa as it compares to its sister languages within SHWNG, and see what it can tell us about linguistic theory. Finally, we'll take a look at the cultural and political context in which Wamesa is spoken. This course will utilize theoretical tools of linguistic analysis as well as addressing practical skills useful for collecting, organizing, and analyzing raw field data and making it useful for the speech community from which it was collected.

Learning Goals

In this course, students will:

1. become familiar with the grammatical structures and social context of Wamesa;

2. situate these attributes within a larger typological and theoretical context;

3. work with raw, messy data to extract patterns and account for exceptions;

4. gain a respect for the Wamesa people whose time and energy made this course possible.

Requirements

- **Prerequisites**: LING 050 and 045 or permission of the instructor.

- There are no required textbooks for this class, as few publications on Wamesa, or SHWNG in general, exist. Readings will be uploaded to Moodle.

- **Materials & Software**:

  ○ Unicode IPA fonts. I recommend Doulos SIL:
    http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?item_id=DoulosSIL.
    An IPA keyboard is available from SIL to make typing IPA easier:
    http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&id=uniipakeyboard.
    I use their MSKLC keyboard for PC; Mac options are also available.

  ○ Elan (transcription software). Download from https://tla.mpi.nl/tools/tla-tools/elan/.

  ○ Optional but potentially useful: Lexique Pro, Praat, Audacity, SayMore, and Toolbox or Fieldworks/FLEx (all free downloads).

Assignments & Grading

- Class attendance and participation: 15%

  ○ Be prepared, contribute, let others contribute.

- Homeworks: 40%

  ○ A combination of problem sets, reading responses, etc.

- In-class presentation: 10%

  ○ Each student will give a ∼15 min presentation during the semester on some topic of interest in SHWNG.

- Final paper proposal: 5%

  ○ Short proposal for a final paper topic. Due 11/29.

- Final paper presentations: 10%

○ Short (∼15 min) presentations of work in progress for final paper, to be presented in class during the final meeting (12/6).

- Final paper/project: 20%

  ○ Tentatively due 12/19, more info TBA. Topic of your choice.

Other Classroom Policies

- **Late Assignments**: Assignments are due at the start of class. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of 10% off per day late. Please talk to me *in advance* if you need an extension.

- **Attendance**: Attendance and participation are key to this class and are part of your grade. Please talk to me *in advance* if you know you'll need to miss a class. If you're sick, please email me as soon as possible to let me know you'll be absent.

- **Computers and Devices**: Laptops may be useful during class to refer to readings, data files, etc. That said, if I see that you've got Facebook, YouTube, Zappos (you'd be surprised), etc open, I'll ask you not to use your laptop anymore. Please do not take out your phone during class. If you use a cell phone in class, I may not call attention to it at the moment, but I will notice. **Please silence all cell phones before class**.

- **Food & Drinks**: I don't mind if you bring coffee/tea/water etc to class, but please be respectful to your peers and avoid noisy or otherwise distracting snacks. We'll take a snack/coffee/stretch break halfway through each meeting.

- **Collaboration**: Work together on class materials! This is strongly encouraged. However, writing up of homeworks needs to be done individually, unless I've given you permission in advance to work in groups. Be sure to cite others' ideas when you use them.

Academic honesty

Swarthmore does not tolerate plagiarism. People found to have plagiarized will be reported to the administration, with failure of the course, academic suspension, or even dismissal from the college as possible consequences. If you're unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, or what the consequences are, refer to http://www.swarthmore.edu/writing/paraphrasing-citation. When in doubt, cite your sources!

I don't care what citation/bibliographic conventions you use, so long as you are consistent and include all relevant information. Most linguists use the citation conventions listed in the *Language* stylesheet, available from the LSA's website (linguisticsociety.org) and on the Moodle.

Fall 2017 Accommodations Statement

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 113W) or email studentdisabilityservices@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. As appropriate, the Office will issue students with documented disabilities a formal Accommodations Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services as soon as possible. For details about the accommodations process, visit the Student Disability Service Website at http://www.swarthmore.edu/academic-advising-support/welcome-to-student-disability-service. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged through the Office of Student Disability Services.

Course outline (tentative, and subject to extensive revision)

Readings should be done *before* the class of the week for which they are listed; we will discuss them in class that Monday.

Week	Date	Topic	Due
1	9/6	Intro to Wamesa and Papua	Optional background: West Papua (region) on Wikipedia.
2	9/13	Phonology	McGibbon (2004) pp. 71-73, 1-57 (in that order) HW 1: Phoneme inventory
3	9/20	Phonology cont'd	HW 2: Phonetics
4	9/27	Nominal morphology	HW 3: Clitics & affixes
5	10/4	Verbal morphology	HW 4: Infixation
6	10/11	Possession	HW 5: Morphology
		Fall Break	
7	10/25	Syntax	HW 6: Syntax exploration
8	11/1	Syntax cont'd	HW 7: Lexical categories
9	11/8	Kinship, numerals	HW 8: Question formation
10	11/15	Digital lexicography, archiving, returning data, ethics	HW 9: Dwyer reading response
11	11/22	Lexicography & ethics cont'd	HW 10: Ethical quandaries
12	11/29	SHWNG, stories & mythology	Final paper proposal
13	12/6	Final paper/project presentations	
	12/19	Final paper due	