Targeting language contact typology for Distributional Typology

The traditional goal of Greenbergian linguistic typology has typically been to identify universals of languages, whether absolute or statistical, unrestricted or implicational. Since languages may be similar to each other due to inheritance or to contact (or to both), much attention has been given to the problem of constructing language samples that treat both inheritance and areality as confounds.

Since the work of Johanna Nichols (e.g., Nichols 1992), a new program for linguistic typology has begun to emerge. Known as *diversity linguistics* or *distributional typology* (Bickel 2007 and afterwards), this program moves away from the "what is a possible language?" question and shift to the targeted investigation of linguistic diversity in its own right, asking "what's where why when?" Distributional typology takes a fundamentally diachronic approach to linguistic typology, seeking to motivate language structures as the result of historical processes of diverse types, on the one hand, and to understand the motivations for language change itself, on the other.

A major conceptual distinction made in distributional typology is between **functional** factors or triggers, which are essentially rooted in communicative or cognitive biases, and **event-based** factors or triggers, which are essentially about language contact. In order to construct explanations for the distribution of linguistic properties in the world's languages or a set thereof, distributional typology has to make assumptions about the likelihood of properties to diffuse through language contact.

However, most studies of language contact are either descriptive or ultimately interested in building theories of language contact, and their empirical basis tends to be anecdotal in nature. **The goal of this mini-course is to show some ways of directly targeting the typology of language contact in order to understand the "what's where why when?" question.**

During this course, students will be expected (i) to read several articles, (ii) to participate in classroom discussions, and (iii) to participate in several small-scale database-construction projects.

Background reading
Bickel, Balthasar. 2015. Distributional typology: statistical inquiries into the dynamics of linguistic diversity. In: Heine, Bernd; Narrog, Heiko. *The Oxford handbook of linguistic analysis*, 901 - 923. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Matras, Yaron. 2009. *Language Contact*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 8: Grammatical and phonological borrowing).
Nichols, Johanna. 2003. Diversity and stability in language. In Richard D. Janda & Brian D. Joseph (eds.), *Handbook of Historical Linguistics* , 283–310. London: Blackwell.

First meeting (3.10)
Borrowing hierarchies and classical approaches to the typology of language contact

Reading 1: Edith Moravcsik. 1978. Language contact. In: Joseph Greenberg (ed.) *Universals of Human Language, vol. 1: Method & Theory*, 93-122. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Second meeting (4.10)
Database-based typological studies of language contact: evaluating universals of borrowing
Reading: Seifart, Frank. 2015. Direct and indirect affix borrowing. *Language* 91(3): 511-531.
Exercise 1 is due.

Third meeting (5.10)
Database-based typological studies of language contact: lexical borrowing
Reading: Haspelmath, Martin & Uri Tadmor. 2009. *Loanwords in the world's languages,* 1-54. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Fourth meeting (9.10)
Database-based typological studies of language contact: phonology
Reading: Matras (2009: 221-233)
Exercise 2 is due.

Fifth meeting (9.10)
Database-based typological studies of language contact: coding alternations of causal:non-causal verb pairs
Reading: Haspelmath, Martin. 1993. More on the typology of inchoative/causative verb alternations. In: Bernard Comrie and Maria Polinsky (eds.), *Causatives and transitivity*, 87–120. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
Exercise 3 is due.

Sixth meeting (10.10)
Summing up, integrating databases, and looking forward
Reading: Bickel, Balthasar. 2017. Areas and universals. in Raymond Hickey (ed.), *Cambridge handbook of areal linguistic*s, 40-54. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.