Course Title: Historical Linguistics 歷史語言學

Course Number: 10810LING500500

Instructor: Barbara Meisterernst 梅思德,
bmeisterernst@gmail.com, meisterernst@mx.nthu.edu.tw

TA: Andrey Goderich Dmitrievskiy/Yu-hsien Kuo (郭育賢), yuhsien77@gmail.com;

Time: M3M4Mn

The course starts on September 16.

Language of Instruction: English

The objective of the course is to provide the students with a basic knowledge of all aspects of historical linguistics. The study of historical linguistics, also called diachronic linguistics or comparative linguistics has a relatively long history in the study of linguistics. Systematic comparative studies started at the end of the 18th century with the proposal of Sir William Jones in *The Sanskrit Language* (1786) that the ancient languages Latin, Greek, and Sanskrit obviously stemmed from a common ancestral source language; additionally, Jones proposed that the Gothic, the Celtic and the Iranian languages might have the same roots. At the same time, an increasing interest in non-European languages developed and genetic affiliations were proposed for a constantly extended number of languages. One of the foremost linguistic schools in historical linguistics of the 19th century was the Neogrammarian school, which proposed a rigorous methodology for the investigation of changes in languages and established the hypothesis of the regularity of sound laws based on linguistic comparison, the **comparative method**. Since then, substantial progress has been achieved in the study of the history of languages and the establishment of new and refined theories regarding the origin, development and affiliation of languages have been proposed. Whereas in the 18th and the 19th century, theories on language change mostly concentrated on the phonetic/phonological part of language, today all aspects of the history of the languages are included in historical linguistic research.

During the course, the students are provided with the methodology for the reconstruction and comparison of the phonology, morphology, semantics and the syntax of languages, as the basis for a critical assessment of hypotheses regarding language change, language affiliations and subgroupings of languages, etc.

Teaching methods:

- **Presentations by the instructor and by students on the relevant topics of the course**
- **Homework, exercises, solving linguistic puzzles**
- **In class discussion and exercises**
- **Final term paper**

Tutorial

As part of the course, an obligatory ten weeks' tutorial is provided, the schedule will be discussed in class.

- The first half of the tutorial is devoted to the discussion of supportive materials and to additional exercises on the comparative method.
- The second half of the tutorial is devoted to the preparation and discussion of the final term papers.

Reading List: General

Anderson, Stephen R. 2015. Morphological change. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Claire Bowern and Bethwyn Evans, 264-285. Oxford and New York: Routledge.

Barðdal, Jóhanna. 2015. Syntax and syntactic reconstruction. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Claire Bowern and Bethwyn Evans, 343-373. Oxford and New York: Routledge.

Blust, Robert A. 1996a. The Neogrammarian Hypothesis and pandemic irregularity. In *The Comparative Method reviewed: Regularity and irregularity in language change*, ed. by Mark Durie and Malcolm Ross, 135-156. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bybee, Joan. 2003. Mechanisms of change in grammaticalization: The role of frequency. In *Handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Brian D. Joseph and Richard D. Jandas, 602-623. Malden and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Croft, William. 2000. *Explaining language change: An evolutionary approach*. Harlow, Toronto, and Paris: Longman.

Fischer, Olga. 2007. *Morphosyntactic change: Functional and formal perspectives*. Oxford Surveys in Syntax and Morphology. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. [P290.F57 2007]

Fischer, Olga. 2008. On analogy as motivation for grammaticalization. *Studies in Language* 32(2):336-382.

Fischer, Olga. 2011. Grammaticalization as analogical driven change? In *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, ed. by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 31-42. Oxford:

Oxford University Press.

Fox, Anthony. 1995. *Linguistic reconstruction: An introduction to theory and method.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[Ch.3: The Comparative Method in the Twentieth Century (Sec. 3.2 Structualist Linguistics and Language Change (pp. 37-44); Sec. 3.3 The Comparative Method and Generative Grammar (pp. 44-50));

Ch.4: The Comparative Method: Basic Procedures (pp. 57-91).

Frajzyngier, Zygmunt. 2015. Functional syntax and language change. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Claire Bowern and Bethwyn Evans, 308-325. Oxford and New York: Routledge.

Garrett, Andrew. 2012. The Historical Syntax Problem: Reanalysis and Directionality. In Diane Jonas, John Whitman and Andrew Garrett. *Grammatical Change: Origins, Nature, and Outcomes.* Oxford: OUP.

Garrett, Andrew. 2015. Sound change. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Claire Bowern and Bethwyn Evans, 227-248. Oxford and New York: Routledge.

Hale, Mark. 2003. Neogrammarian sound change. In *Handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Brian D. Joseph and Richard D. Jandas, 343-368. Malden and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Hale, Mark. 2015. The comparative method: Theoretical Issues. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. By Bowern, Claire, and Bethwyn Evans, 146-160. New York: Routledge.

Joseph, Brian D. 2011. Grammaticalization: A general critique. In *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, ed. by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 193-205. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kiparsky, Paul. 2003. The phonological basis of sound change. In *Handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Brian D. Joseph and Richard D. Jandas, 313-342. Malden and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Kiparsky, Paul. 2015. New perspectives in historical linguistics. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Claire Bowern and Bethwyn Evans, 64-102. Oxford and New York: Routledge.

Koch, Harold. 2015. Morphological reconstruction. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Claire Bowern and Bethwyn Evans, 286-307. Oxford and New York: Routledge.

Lightfoot, David. 2003. Grammatical approaches to syntactic change. In *Handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Brian D. Joseph and Richard D. Jandas, 495-508. Malden and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Matras, Yaron. 2011. Grammaticalization and language contact. In *The Oxford*

handbook of grammaticalization, ed. by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 279-290. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

McMahon, April M. S. 1994. *Understanding language change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Reintges, Chris H.. 2015. Increasing morphological complexity and how syntax drives morphological change. In *Syntax over Time*: *Lexical, Morphological and Information Structure Interactions*, ed. by Bieberauer, Teresa and George Walkden. Oxford: OUP.

Roberts, Ian, Roussou, Anna. 2003. Syntactic Change. Cambridge: CUP.

Ross, Malcolm, and Mark Durie. 1996. *The Comparative Method reviewed: Regularity and irregularity in language change*, ed. by Mark Durie and Malcolm Ross. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Urban, Matthias. 2015. Lexical semantic change and semantic reconstruction. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Claire Bowern and Bethwyn Evans, 373-392. Oxford and New York: Routledge.

van Gelderen, Elly. 2011a. Grammaticalization and Generative Grammar: A difficult liaison. In *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, ed. by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 43-55. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

van Gelderen, Elly. 2015. Generative syntax and language change. In *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*, ed. by Claire Bowern and Bethwyn Evans, 326-342. Oxford and New York: Routledge.

Textbooks, Glossaries

Blust, Robert A. 2018. *101 problems and solutions in historical linguistics: A workbook*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

Bowern, Claire, and Bethwyn Evans, eds. 2015. *The Routledge handbook of historical linguistics*. New York: Routledge.

Campbell, Lyle. 2013. *Historical linguistics: An introduction*, 3rd edition. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Crowley, Terry, Bowern, Claire. 2010. *An Introduction to Historical Linguistics*. Oxford: OUP

Fox, Anthony. 1995. *Linguistic reconstruction: An introduction to theory and method*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hale, Mark. 2007. *Historical linguistics: Theory and method*. Blackwell Textbooks in Linguistics. Malden and Oxford: Blackwell.

Haspelmath, Martin, and Uri Tadmor, eds. 2009a. *Loanwords in the world's languages: A comparative handbook*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Heine, Bernd, Kuteva, Tania. 2002 (new edition is coming out). *World Lexicon of Grammaticalization.* Cambridge: CUP.

Joseph, Brian D., and Richard D. Janda, eds. 2003. *Handbook of historical linguistics*. Malden and Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Narrog, Heiko, and Bernd Heine, eds. 2011. *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*.

Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sapir, Edward. 1921. *Language: An Introduction to the study of speech*. New York: Harcourt Brace & Company. ["drift" (pp. 147-170)]

Campbell, Lyle, and Mauricio J. Mixco. 2007. *A glossary of historical linguistics*. Salt Lake City: The University of Utah Press.

Trask, R. L. 2000. *The dictionary of historical and comparative linguistics*. Chicago and London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers.

Journals, websites

Diachronica [published by John Benjamins Publishing Company (1985 ~)]

Journal of Historical Linguistics [published by John Benjamins Publishing Company (2011~)]

Journal of Historical Syntax (2011 –), Open Access.

Ethnologue: Languages of the world https://www.ethnologue.com/

Reading list: specialized

Aldridge, Edith. 2010. 2010. Directionality in word order change in Austronesian languages. In *Continuity and Change in Grammar*, ed. By Anne Breitbarth, Christopher Lucas, Sheila Watts, David Willis. 169-180. John Benjamins.

Aldridge, Edith. 2013. Survey of Chinese historical syntax part I: Pre-Archaic and Archaic Chinese. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 7.1: 39-57.

Aldridge, Edith. 2013. Survey of Chinese historical syntax part II: Middle Chinese. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 7.1: 58-77.

Alves, Mark. 2014. A Note on the Early Sino-Vietnamese Loanword for 'Rake/Harrow. *Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale* 43, 32-38.

Alves, Mark. 2015. Etyma for 'Chicken', 'Duck', & 'Goose' among Language Phyla in China & Southeast Asia – *Journal of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society* 8:39-55.

Blust, Robert A. 2010. Five patterns of semantic change in Austronesian languages. In *A journey through Austronesian and Papuan linguistic and cultural space: Papers in honour of Andrew K. Pawley*, ed. by John Bowden, Nikolaus P. Himmelmann and Malcolm Ross, 525-546. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.

Blust, Robert A. 1996b. Austronesian culture history: The window of language.

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, New Series 86(5): Prehistoric settlement of the Pacific, 23-35.

Blust, Robert A. 1999. Subgrouping, circularity and extinction: Some issues in Austronesian comparative linguistics. *Selected papers from the Eighth International Conference on Austronesian Linguistics*, ed. by Elizabeth Zeitoun and Paul Jen-kuei Li, 31-94. Symposium Series of the Institute of Linguistics (Preparatory Office), Academia Sinica, Number 1. Taipei: Academia Sinica.

Dong Hongyuan. 2014. *A History of the Chinese Language*. London/New York: Routledge.

Boltz, William G. Language and Writing. Chapter Two of *Cambridge History of Ancient China*. CUP: 1999.

Chappell, Hilary, and Alain Peyraube. 2011. Grammaticalization in Sinitic languages. In *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, ed. by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 786-796. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Coblin, South W. The initials of Xǔ Shèn's language as reflected in the *Shuowen Duruo* glosses. *Journal of Chinese Linguistics*. vol. 6: 27 - 75.

André-Georges Haudricourt. How to reconstruct Old Chinese. 2017. <halshs-01631479> (Haudricourt, A.G.. 1954b. "Comment reconstruire le chinois archaïque", *Word* 10, 2-3, pp. 351-64.)

Jacques, Guillaume. 2015. Derivational Verbal Morphology in Khaling. *Bulletin of Chinese Linguistics* 8, 78-85.

Narrog, Heiko, and Toshio Ohori. 2011. Grammaticalization in Japanese. In *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, ed. by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 775-785. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Newman, John. 1996. Footnotes to a history of Cantonese: Accounting for the phonological irregularities. In *The Comparative Method reviewed: Regularity and irregularity in language change*, ed. by Mark Durie and Malcolm Ross, 90-111. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Norman, Jerry. 1994. Pharyngealization in Early Chinese. *Journal of the Americal Oriental Society* 114, 3, 397-408.

Ross, Malcolm. 1996. Contact-induced change and the Comparative Method: Cases from Papua New Guinea. In *The Comparative Method reviewed: Regularity and irregularity in language change*, ed. by Mark Durie and Malcolm Ross, 180-217. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press. [the first use of the term "metatypy"]

Thompson, Sandra, and Ryoko Suzuki. 2011. The grammaticalization of final particles. In *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, ed. by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 668-680. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Sagart Laurent. 1999. *The Roots of Old Chinese*. Amsterdam; Philadelphia: John

Benjamins Publ.

Schuessler, Axel. 2007. *ABC Etymological Dictionary of Old Chinese*. Hawai: University of Hawai Press.

Van Kemmenade, Ans, Los, Bettelou. 2003. Particles and Prefixes in Dutch and English. *Yearbook of Morphology*, ed. by Geert Booij and Jaap van Marle, 79–117. Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Ziegeler, Debra. 2011. The grammaticalization of modality. In *The Oxford handbook of grammaticalization*, ed. by Heiko Narrog and Bernd Heine, 595-604. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tentative course schedule

Week 1:   General Orientation, Introduction

Week 2-5:   Overview on Historical Linguistics, Neogrammarian Hypothesis, Sound Change, Different theories on Sound Change (based on the literature provided in the general reading list and selected chapters from textbooks)

Week 6-9:   Morphological Change, Universals and Change in Semantics, Morpho-syntactic Change, Grammaticalization (based on the literature provided in the general reading list and selected chapters from textbooks)

Week 10-12:   The issue of Syntactic Reconstruction, Diachronic Syntax: theory and praxis (Roberts and Rousso, van Gelderen, etc.)

Week 13-16:   Chinese and East Asian Historical Linguistcs: Phonology, Morphology, Syntax (Chinese, Vietnames, Japanese)

Week 17:   Presentation of abstracts of the term paper