



MA LE-482L South Asia as a linguistic area Credit 4

Winter Semester, 2018 Course Teacher: PKD

Course Description:

The course is designed to impart the knowledge of core concept of 'linguistic area' to the students. The students are not only introduced to the structural nuances of the languages from different language families which come into interplay to form a geographical area which can constitute and thus be recognized as a linguistic area, but they are also introduced to the core concepts of the features or factors that make such linguistic area possible.

Prerequisites:

Why there should be any prerequisite in acquiring/gathering knowledge? One of the prerequisites of the course is that the students should be regular to the class.

Topics that will be covered in the course:

1. The notions that help to understand the linguistic area
2. Understand the geographical, social, economical, political reasons for language settlement and displacement world-wide
3. Word order phenomenon and correlation-al factors of language structure
4. Left-branching and Right-branching with special focus on head-initial and head-final languages
5. Explicator compound verb and Reverse compound verbs
6. Con-verbs and co-verbs and conjunct verb
7. Causative and de-causative verbs
8. The dative construction (Experiencer Subject/Non-Nominative Subject)
9. Ergative and non-ergative languages
10. Systems of agreement in Indian Languages

Evaluation method:

One mid-term = 15%

One term paper= 15%

A small project= 15%

Class Participation= 15%

Final examination = 40%

Essential readings:

Masica, Colin P. (2005) *Defining a linguistic area; South Asia*. New Delhi, Chronicle Books.
Masica Colin P. (1991) *The Indo-Aryan languages*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
Krishnamurty Bh. (2006) *The Dravidian languages*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
LaPolla R. & G. Thurgood (Eds.) (2003/16) *The Sino-Tibetan languages*. London, Routledge.
Anderson, G. D. S. (2008) *The Munda languages*. London, Routledge
Verbeke, S. (2013) *Alignment and Ergativity in New Indo-Aryan Languages*, Berlin, Mouton De Gruyter

*Many research papers by different authors will also be given as essential readings time to time in the class.