

Skills for Language Study: Objectives

By the end of the course, the participants are able to:

- Analyse and describe patterns of distribution of consonants and vowels.
- Analyse characteristic syllable shapes and contrastive phonemes of a language from wordlists.
- Analyse and describe word classes, morphology and morphosyntax, including morphophonemic alternations.
- Predict how related word forms are expected to sound from analysis of available data.
- Analyse patterns of pitch, stress and other features over words and phrases, involving the use of computer tools.
- Analyse and describe the structure of sentences, clauses and noun phrases.
- Analyse predicate / verb classes.
- Identify the information structure of sentences in commands, questions and answers.
- Determine the basis for grammatical relations applied in English and another language.
- Participate in grammatical analysis based on textual data, including voice constructions.
- Express and explain morphological and syntactic concepts to a non-specialist audience.
- Collect, manage, and analyse a corpus of transcribed phonetic data in a team, working with a mother-tongue speaker as resource person.
- Cooperate with a team to write an outline phonology and grammar of a language.

In addition, participants will explore software for Field Linguistics and will have:

- Defined a FieldWorks project to implement a lexical database.
- Set up and used the MSKLC keyboard mapping utility to enter and edit IPA text.
- Populated a lexical database, including entry of senses, allomorphs, affixes and variant and complex forms.
- Identified and corrected data inconsistencies with FLEEx tools including sort, filter and bulk edit.
- Used Phonology Assistant to test phonological hypotheses against a corpus of phonetic data.
- Used Speech Analyzer for acoustic data analysis.
- Created an interlinearised text following the Leipzig Glossing Rules and used it to test morphosyntactic hypotheses.
- Prepared data for archival storage using metadata to make it usable and accessible to others.
- Used bulk transfer and edit tools to create a phonemic database from phonetic data.