Name of the course: Language change and language emergence
Lecturer name: Dr. Svetlana Dachkovsky
Course number: 132.1.0327
Office hours:

Short course description (5-10 lines) with key words at the end of the paragraph
Change constitutes the essence of language life. In the first semester, a general introduction to language change will be given; various models used to explain change on the levels phonetics/phonology, morpho-syntax and the lexicon will be discussed. In the second part of the course we will focus on the language emergence in the context of pidgins and creoles, and on the newly emerging sign languages of the Deaf communities all over the world and in Israel. Thereby, the second block of the course will expand on the foundation formed in the first block by demonstrating how various types of change participate in the process of language emergence through detailed discussion of case studies.

Key words: language change, pidgins and creoles, language emergence, grammaticalization

Course requirements:
Semester A:
Attendance required yes
Homework and quizzes 30% Exams: 70%
Midterm: 
Presentations: 

Semester B:
Attendance required yes
Homework and quizzes 10% Exams: 50%
Midterm:
Presentations: 40%

Important! In case an exam grade is non-passing (below 60), the whole course grade is considered non-passing.

Course content:

Lesson 1. Introduction. Human language changes all the time: What types of changes happen in language? What are the major triggering factors of language change?

Reading:
Part I. Types and levels of language change


Reading:

Lesson 3. Lexical changes. Sources of new vocabulary: neologisms, borrowings, etc.

Reading:
1) Campbell, X. Semantic change and lexical change.

Lesson 4. Semantic changes. Metaphor, metonymy and other types of meaning change.

Reading:

Lesson 5. Morphological changes. The origin of bound morphemes. Hypercorrection, morphological reanalysis, backformation and other types of morphological changes.

Reading:


Reading:


Reading:
Diessel, H. Where do grammatical morphemes come from? On the grammatical markers from lexical expressions, demonstratives, and question words. In New Reflections on Grammaticalization.

Reading:


Reading:

Lesson 10. Interactions between different types and levels of language change.

Reading:


Lesson 11. General overview of emerging languages. Types and characteristics of emerging languages. Languages in contact. Social conditions of emerging languages.

Reading:


Reading:

Lesson 13. Theories accounting for the emergence and development of pidgins and creoles.
Lesson 14. Phonological changes in pidgins and creoles.

Reading:

Lesson 15. Workshop and classroom discussion.

Lesson 16. Lexical and semantic changes in pidgins and creoles.

Reading:

Lesson 17. Morphological and syntactic changes in pidgins and creoles

Reading:


Reading:
Lessons 19-20. Class presentations of students’ work.