Language Documentation and Description in Africa (A003810)

Course Specifications
Valid as from the academic year 2018-2019

Course size
Credits  5.0
Study time  150 h
Contact hrs  45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2019-2020
A (semester 1)  Dutch, English  lecture  45.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2019-2020
Dom, Sebastian  LW21  staff member
Nabirye, Minah  LW21  lecturer-in-charge
de Schryver, Gilles-Maurice  LW21  co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2019-2020

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<td>Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures</td>
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<td>Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies</td>
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Teaching languages
Dutch, English

Keywords
language endangerment, language death, language revitalization, language documentation, culture documentation, language description, archiving, dissemination, Bantu, Africa

Position of the course
This course provides a broad introduction to language documentation and description, a new sub-discipline within linguistics, with special attention to the African languages. A recent international handbook is being used as guide (Boerger et al. 2018); during the classes the examples are taken from the experiences of the BantUGent research group.

Contents

Part 1: Theory
Lesson 1 – Language endangerment, language death and language revitalization: What?
Lesson 2 – Language and culture documentation: What?
Lesson 3 – Themes, motivations and ethical aspects

Part 2: A language and culture documentation project
Lesson 4 – Planning of a documentation project
Lesson 5 – The documentary corpus and archive
Lesson 6 – BantUGent examples of projects

Part 3: Equipment and software
Lesson 7 – Equipment
Lesson 8 – Software

Part 4: Fieldwork
Lesson 9 – Data management and elicitation
Lesson 10 – Fieldwork
Lesson 11 – BantUGent examples of fieldwork

Part 5: Post-field processing
Lesson 12 – Archiving, description, publication and dissemination

Initial competences
Secondary school.

(Approved)
Final competences
A good understanding of what language documentation and description in Africa entail.

Conditions for credit contract
Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment.

Conditions for exam contract
This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract.

Teaching methods
Lecture

Learning materials and price
Handbook (Boerger et al. 2018); own PowerPoint presentations; own equipment and software demonstrations; own audio, photos and videos; BantUGent examples.

References

Course content-related study coaching
Possibility to ask questions during and after class, via e-mail, and through Minerva.

Evaluation methods
end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period
Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period
Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation
not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark
100% periodic evaluation (written exam)

Facilities for Working Students
Instead of being physically present during class, self-study of the handbook, in combination with the slides which are uploaded to Minerva following each lesson. Participate in the written exam like the regular students.