

The Lexicon in South Asian Phonetics and Phonology

Fall, 2020

Instructor: Charles Redmon
Office: TBD

Meeting Times: TBD
Office Hours: TBD

This course will cover a core feature of language that is particularly pronounced in languages of the South Asian region: the mixed historical origin of words in the lexicon due to centuries of borrowing and multilingualism in the speech community, often between distinct language families. For example, just as the English lexicon contains a substantial number of words of French origin, languages like Malayalam and Tamil, spoken in southern India, have lexicons where a large fraction of words are of Sanskrit origin. Because different languages exhibit different phonetic and phonological patterns, this mixture of language origins in the lexicon often results in a *stratification* of words in a single language, where words of different origins behave differently when it comes to phonological constraints and phonetic processes. This course will introduce the theories of Lexical Phonology and Lexical Stratification, and phonetic implications therefrom, and use them to better understand the sound systems of South Asian languages.

1 Course Requirements

1.1 Problem Sets (50%)

Five problem sets will be assigned over the course of the semester, consisting of a combination of short answer questions, analytical problems in phonetics and phonology, and data processing problems. Each problem set will be due two weeks after it is assigned and will count for 10% of the final grade. You may work in groups, but your answers must be your own (please include the names of your group partners on your submission).

1.2 Final Project (30%)

In lieu of a final exam, you will each complete a final project on a topic of your choosing and give a short presentation on that project in the final two weeks of class. Your project can analyze any phonetic or phonological phenomenon, in any language, where the historical source of items in the lexicon plays a major role. This project should involve original analysis, and the writeup should be between 10 and 12 double-spaced pages in length. Finally, while your projects will be on independent topics, if multiple people are working on the same language you may collaborate on any preliminary data processing that may be common to the group of projects, such as finding a corpus and organizing word lists.

1.3 Reading Summaries and Discussion Questions (15%)

Readings form an important part of class, and if you haven't done the readings ahead of class the material will be difficult to follow and class discussion will be hampered. For this reason, you will each be expected to submit to me before the first class of the week a brief summary (approximately 100 words) of each reading and a question you had on that reading (this could be a question on the theoretical background, argumentation, or methodology, or an open-ended question the reading raises but does not directly answer). These assignments are merely to prepare you for class and provide material for discussion, and so they will be graded simply for completion.

1.4 Participation (5%)

An important part of this course is classroom discussion, as many of the issues we will discuss are open-ended and as-yet unsolved by the research community. You are each encouraged to answer and ask questions, offer your opinions, and give feedback on topics throughout the course. If you are at all at risk of losing points for participation, I will contact you and meet with you about how you can get more involved in class (if you do not hear from me, you are doing a great job already and can expect full points).

2 Schedule

Week 1 (08/31–09/04) Introduction to South Asian Languages and Linguistic History

- Readings: Cardona & Jain (2007). “General Introduction.” In Jain & Cardona (Eds.), *The Indo-Aryan Languages* ◇ Krishnamurti (2003). “Introduction.” In Krishnamurti, B., *The Dravidian Languages* ◇ Burling (2006). “The Tibeto-Burman Languages of Northeastern India.” In Thurgood & LaPolla (Eds.), *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*

Week 2 (09/08–09/11) Introduction to South Asian Languages and Linguistic History

- Readings: Jenny, Weber, & Weymuth (2014). “The Austroasiatic Languages: A Typological Overview.” In Sidwell & Jenny (Eds.) *The Handbook of Austroasiatic Languages* [selected pages] ◇ Sidwell (2014). “Austroasiatic Classification” In Sidwell & Jenny (Eds.) *The Handbook of Austroasiatic Languages* [selected pages] ◇ Emeneau (1956). “India as a Linguistic Area.” ◇ Moral (1997). “North-East India as a Linguistic Area.”

Week 3 (09/14–09/18) Lexical Phonology and Lexical Stratification

- Readings: Mohanan (2012). “Introduction.” In Mohanan, *The Theory of Lexical Phonology* ◇ Kaisse & Shaw (1985). “On the Theory of Lexical Phonology.” ◇ Itô & Mester (2008). “Lexical Classes in Phonology.”

Week 4 (09/21–09/25) Lexical Phonology and Lexical Stratification

- Readings: Sjoberg (1962). “Coexistent Phonemic Systems in Telugu: A Socio-Cultural Perspective.” ◇ Mohanan & Mohanan (1984). “Lexical Phonology of the Consonant System in Malayalam.” ◇ Chelliah (1996). “An Autolexical Account of Voicing Assimilation in Manipuri”

Week 5 (09/28–10/02) Category/Contrast Distributions

- Readings: *The Dravidian Languages*, Chapter 2: Phonology: Descriptive ◇ Ohala (1991). “Phonological Areal Features of Some Indo-Aryan Languages.” ◇ Surendran & Niyogi (2003). “Measuring the Usefulness (Functional Load) of Phonological Contrasts.”

Week 6 (10/05–10/09) Category/Contrast Distributions

- Readings: Arsenault (2018). *Retroflexion in South Asia: Typological, Genetic, and Areal Patterns.* ◇ Neukom (1999). “Phonological Typology of Northeast India.”

Week 7 (10/12–10/16) Phonotactics

- Readings: *The Dravidian Languages*, Chapter 4: Phonology: Historical and Comparative ◇ Ohala (1999). “The Syllable in Hindi.” ◇ Mohanan (1989). “Syllable Structure in Malayalam.”

Week 8 (10/19–10/23) NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

Week 9 (10/26–10/30) Phonotactics

- Readings: Henderson (1976). “Khasi Initial Clusters.” ◇ Matisoff (1990). “Bulging Monosyllables: Areal Tendencies in Southeast Asian Diachrony.”

Week 10 (11/02–11/06) Morphology in Models of the Lexicon

- Readings: Bybee (1995). *Regular Morphology and the Lexicon.* ◇ Hay & Baayen (2005). “Shifting Paradigms: Gradient Structure in Morphology.” ◇ *The Dravidian Languages*, Chapter 5: Word Formation. ◇ *The Dravidian Languages*, Chapter 10: Lexicon.

Week 11 (11/09–11/13) Morphology in Models of the Lexicon

- Readings: Delancey (2011). “Notes on Verb Agreement Prefixes in Tibeto-Burman” ◇ Henderson (1976). “Vestiges of Morphology in Modern Standard Khasi.”

Week 12 (11/16–11/20) Open Challenges in South Asian Phonetics/Phonology

- This week and the next are left open to explore topics students are interested in, either in general or based on common themes in final project topics.
- Possible topics include: coarticulation, vowel harmony, retroflexion, tonogenesis (both the emergence and loss of lexical tone), language technology, and Indian Englishes

Week 13 (11/23–11/25) Open Challenges in South Asian Phonetics/Phonology

Week 14 (11/30–12/04) Final Presentations

Week 15 (12/07–12/09) Final Presentations