LING 322: Special Section
Summer 2008

Tsilhqôt'in Syntax

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Class hours: Fridays, 1:30-4:20, RCB 9211

Prerequisite: LING 222: Introduction to Syntax (Textbook—Tallerman 2006).

Grading:
Active Participation in class: 55%
Four Assignments (15% each: (i) Verb paradigms: Aspect/subject/object prefixes; (ii) Head-marking; (iii) Word order: Positions of subject/object/PP): 45%

Class Description:
In this class we will explore Tsilhqôt'in syntax, relating to both morphology and semantics, and relating Tsilhqôt'in to other Northern Athapaskan languages, to the entire Athapaskan language family, and to languages of the world at a universal level. The goal of the course is to (1) interrelate works on Tsilhqôt'in grammar with the native knowledge of the student, (2) to interrelate work on Tsilhqôt'in grammar and native knowledge with theoretical work on Athapaskan languages more generally and (3) with work on language universals and typology, including (4) examinations of syntactic theory as it becomes relevant. In addition to reading source grammars and grammatical descriptions, we will (5) study the syntax of Tsilhqôt'in through the examination of some glossed and translated stories and texts.

Class Schedule:

Week 1, May 9 – Sounds and Parts of Speech
• Cook ch. 1-2.
• Tallerman 2006, section 2.1 (Identifying word classes), 2.2 (Syntax of the major word classes), pp. 29-51.

Week 2, May 16 – Conjunct prefixes in the verb
• Cook ch. 3, section 3.1(Verbal prefixes), 3.2 (Conjunct vs. disjunct prefixes), 3.2.1 (Conjunct prefixes and phonological rules), pp. 1-24.
• Tallerman, 2006, section 2.2 (Grammatical categories), pp. 51-61.
Week 3, May 23 – **Aspect: viewpoint aspect, situation aspect, subsituation aspect**
- Rice 2000, pp. 246-262.
- Class notes from LING 222 on situation aspect.
- Cook, section 3.3.3 (Derivational versus inflectional aspects), 3.3.4 (Inflectional categories and verb paradigms), pp. 39-51.

Week 4, May 30 – **Aspect (continued): stative verbs, the role of preverbs and stem suffixes**
- Cook, section 3.3.5 (Usitative verbs), pp. 51-53.

Week 5, June 6 – **Pronominal prefixes**
- Cook, section 3.3 (Conjunct prefixes and inflectional categories), 3.3.1 (Subject prefixes), 3.3.2 (Object prefixes), pp. 30-38.

Week 6, June 13 – **Qualifiers and noun classification (gender markers); Simple sentences**
- Cook, Chapter 3, pp. 18-19, 33
- Cook section 5 (Simple sentences); 5.1 (Constituents of simple sentences); 5.2 (Subclasses of the verbs and simple sentences); 5.2.1 (Intransitive verb and complement NP); 5.2.2 (Transitive verbs and object NP); 5.4 (Descriptive verbs in simple sentences).

Week 7, June 20; Week 8, June 27 – **Classifiers/Voice-valence markers**;
- Cook, section 3.5 (Stem, classifiers, and the verb theme), 3.5.1 (Primary themes), 3.5.2 (Function of the classifier), 3.5.3 (Secondary themes: causative, passive, reflexive-benefactive, iterative), pp. 58-76.
- Cook, section 3.4 (Prefix structure in derived verbs), 3.4.1 (Prefix structure in negative verbs), 3.4.2 (Prefix structure in causative verbs), pp. 53-58.
- Tallerman 2006, Chapter 7 (Processes that change grammatical relations): Section 7.2.1 (Passive), 7.4 (Causative), pp. 188-193, 205-209.

Week 9, July 4 - **Ditransitive verbs; PP; Incorporation; Head-marking**
- Cook, section 5.2.3 (Simple sentences with a ditransitive verb); 5.2.4 (Simple sentence with a causative ditransitive verb)
- Cook, section 3.6 (Incorporation), 3.6.1 (Noun incorporation), 3.6.2 (Postposition incorporation).
- Cook, section 5.3 (PP as a constituent of simple sentences), 5.3.1 (NP vs. PP), 5.3.2 (Postposition incorporation), 5.3.3 (Grammatical and lexical status of PP and PI),
- Class notes and exam questions on head marking from LING 222.
Week 10, July 11 – **Topic-marking; Multiple positions for subjects and object.**
- Cook, section 5.5 (Topic markers and word order); 5.5.1 (Demonstrative pronouns vs. topic markers); 5.5.2 (Contracted topic markers)
- Rice & Saxon 2005, pp. 698-723.

Week 11, July 20 – **The yi-bi alternation; Syntax in texts.**
- Smith 2008

Week 12, July 27 – **Syntax in texts.**
- Smith 2008

Week 13, August 1 – **Syntax in texts; wrap up.**
- Smith 2008

**Bibliography**


1. Sound System and Orthography
2. Words and their Categories
3. Organization of the Verb
4. Simple Sentences


