

LINGUISTICS 910:INCORPORATION

Instructor: Clifton Pye, Blake 420, 864-3450

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00 or by appointment

Textbook: **Incorporation** by Mark Baker

This seminar will explore the topic of incorporation using Mark Baker's book **Incorporation** as the main text. Incorporation has traditionally been viewed as a productive process in polysynthetic languages such as Eskimo or Iroquois, which make extensive use of noun incorporation. Baker suggests that the incorporation process can be extended to included passive, antipassive and causative constructions as well as the more typical cases of noun and verb incorporation. In this seminar we will evaluate Baker's proposal by discussing the original descriptions of incorporation in various languages and comparing them to Baker's analysis. We will also analyze the degree to which the Government and Binding framework that Baker uses really constrains the incorporation process.

Course Format

The seminar will consist of class discussions of assigned readings and their implications for the analysis of incorporation. Each student will be responsible for leading the class discussion on a particular reading.

Assignments

In addition to the reading and class discussion each student is required to write a paper discussing some aspect of incorporation. The paper, for example, might examine the strengths and weaknesses of Baker's account of a particular incorporation process in a specific language, or evaluate the consistency with which the incorporation idea is applied to various syntactic constructions. Students will present a preliminary version of their paper in class and turn in this version around the middle of the semester. They will then be asked to turn in a final revision of their paper that considers the suggestions from the class and the instructor.

Responsibilities:

- a. Class presentations
- b. Oral progress report on term paper - Mar. 6th
- c. First Draft of term paper - Mar. 20th
- d. Final oral summary of term paper - Apr. 17th
- e. Final Draft of term paper - May 11th

Term paper/project (some suggestions):

- a. Evaluate an aspect of Baker's Incorporation theory
 1. Is it detailed enough for you to understand and apply?
 2. Does it cover the full range of phenomena?
 3. Are there items which you feel are exceptions to his account?
 4. Does it account for data in another language?

- b. Compare Baker's theory with another account of incorporation
 1. Which account offers the best explanation of the data?
 2. Are there data that either theory cannot account for?

- c. If an inspiration strikes you, formulate your own additions or changes to Baker's theory.
 1. What aspects of Baker's theory need change?
 2. What changes do you propose?
 3. How does your revision improve on Baker's original theory?
 4. What problems remain for your revision?

N.B. Feel free to consult with me or anyone else about your paper.

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Reading Schedule

| | Dates | Page Nos. | Topic |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Feb. 20 | 76-105 | Noun Incorporation & Case Theory |
| | Feb. 27 | 105-129 | NI and alternatives |
| | Mar. 6 | 129-146 | Antipassive |
| <i>oral</i> | Mar. 20 | 147-196 | Causatives In |
| | Mar. 27 | 196-228 | Causative Variations |
| | Apr. 3 | 229-280 | Applicatives |
| <i>1st draft</i> | Apr. 10 | 280-304 | Datives & Theory |
| | Apr. 17 | 305-339 | Passive Pat |
| | Apr. 24 | 339-361 | Verb Movement |
| | May 1 | 362- | Interactions |