

## Paper writing guidelines

### ENG 414

The syllabus (see <http://www.public.asu.edu/~gelderer/Typology/htm>)<sup>2017</sup> mentions that you have two options for writing a paper. One is to make use of your HW assignments on the language you chose to become an expert on and the other is to examine a particular topic, e.g. ergativity. If you do the HW-based option, you need to improve on the topics if necessary and synthesize it all into the 'typology of X'. If you do the second possibility, I need to see an outline by week 8. I'll give two possible paper outlines below and am happy to look at a draft of the paper if done at least a week before the deadline.

**A paper/outline on the Typology of Language X could look like the following.** I really like to number the separate sections and will do so here. Note that the finished paper should have a 200-word abstract.

#### Example I

**Title of the paper, your name, and affiliation (i.e. ASU)**  
**The Typology of Language X**

1. **Introduction.** Say something about the language you have chosen in general (define it genetically and areally and how many people speak it, etc by using WALS and Ethnologue). Then narrow your focus and say what you are going to be working on, i.e. its structure. If possible, provide a short characterization such as 'Language X is a analytic language with a VO order that has ...' that you'll explain later. Also give an outline/road map for the rest of the paper.
2. Explain your **methodology**, e.g. do you use a native speaker or a corpus or a particular grammar? Then, discuss this method a little more and its advantages and disadvantages. Thus, the data can be new (e.g. that you found from a native speaker or from corpora) or reinterpreted (from a paper or grammar that was already published). Be sure to gloss appropriately!
- (3. **Phonological typology.** This section is optional. )
4. **Morphological characterization.** You would use chapter 7 in Whaley and explain what the type of language X is.
5. **Syntactic characterization.** Discuss the basic categories (the parts of speech), the word order, the grammatical and semantic marking if present. Discuss TMA and negation and other topics that you want to. Keep it as focused as you can. So if you can write 5 pages on negation, do that, rather than 1 on negation and 1 on something else!
6. **Conclusion and References** used in the text. Rephrase what you have found and say how this compares to other languages you have become familiar with in the class. If possible, indicate limitations and areas for future research.

## Example II

**Title of the paper, your name, and affiliation (i.e. ASU)**

**Negation: (you should have a subtitle that narrows it further)**

1. **Introduction.** Say something about the topic you have chosen in general (e.g. negatives occur in all languages, etc) and then narrow your focus and say what you are going to be working on, e.g. on the negative cycle or on negatives in Celtic languages. If possible, provide a short characterization. Also give an outline/road map for the rest of the paper.
2. Explain your **methodology**, e.g. do you use a native speaker or a corpus or a particular paper/grammar? Then, discuss this method a little more and its advantages and disadvantages. Thus, the data can be new (e.g. that you found from a native speaker or from corpora) or reinterpreted (from a paper or grammar that was already published). Be sure to gloss appropriately!
3. **Literature review** (sections 2 and 3 can be reversed). If you were to choose 'Negation in Celtic', be sure to give genetic and areal background on Celtic and some background on negation here.
4. **Data and Synthesis.** Relate the Celtic data to some universals of negatives (e.g. Payne 1985 and van Gelderen 2008 mention various typological characteristics of negation).
5. **Conclusion and references** used in the text. Rephrase what you have found and say how Celtic compares to other languages you have become familiar with in the class. If possible, indicate limitations and areas for future research.

(see <http://www.public.asu.edu/~gelderen/LT-08.pdf> for a very long example)

### Things to keep in mind:

Audience: for a paper Elly is the audience.

Give lots of examples; if sentences, gloss them well!

Use the LLBA, Scholar Google, ASU's One Search, etc wisely:

<http://lib.asu.edu/tutorials>

### The point to the paper is to:

- find out something interesting and to relate it to what you have learned in the class thereby consolidating both.
- present ideas in a clear manner to a particular audience.
- using linguistic resources