Language Documentation and Description in Africa (A003810)

Course size   *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0   **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)	Dutch, English	Gent	lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Goes, Heidi	LW21	staff member
de Schryver, Gilles-Maurice	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in History	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy	5	A
Exchange Programme African Languages and Cultures	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in African Studies	5	A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

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.* 2020); 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 GUEST 1
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 GUEST 2
Part 5: Post-field processing
Lesson 12 – Archiving, description, publication and dissemination

Initial competences

Secondary school.

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.* 2020); own PowerPoint presentations; own equipment
and software demonstrations; own audio, photos and videos; BantUGent examples.

References

Boerger, Brenda H., Sarah R. Moeller, Will Reiman & Stephen Self. 2020. *Language
and Culture Documentation Manual.* https://leanpub.com: Leanpub.

Course content-related study coaching

Possibility to ask questions during and after class, via e-mail, and through Ufora.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

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 Ufora following each lesson.
Participate in the written exam like the regular students.