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 in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 1)   Dutch, English   Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Pacchiarotti, Sara	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Bostoen, Koen	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures	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
Elective Set African Studies	5	A
Elective Set Linguistics	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

Group work, Seminar, Independent work

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Boerger et al. (2020)
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Online Available : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: own PowerPoint presentations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: own audio, photos and videos
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Other

Name: own equipment and software demonstrations
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Other

Name: BantUGent examples
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes

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

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Calculation of the examination mark

Facilities for Working Students

Instead of being physically present during class, self-study of the handbook, in combination with the materials which are uploaded to Ufora following each lesson. Participate in the written exam like the regular students.