

**Linguistics 4490G Independent Reading / Research Course  
Winter 2023-24**

**Instructor:** Jeff Tennant

**Student:** Anthony Tran

**Title:** Dialect Variation in Vietnamese Tones

**Readings:**

To be determined by student and instructor based on literature review conducted by the student.

**Meetings:**

As needed to ensure the student's progress is adequately supported.

**Course Description:**

This independent study course will give the student an opportunity to do in-depth study on the topic of tense, mood and aspect in second language acquisition.

The student's study of the topic will be completed in three phases:

- 1) an initial literature review in the form of an annotated bibliography;
- 2) an asynchronous presentation;
- 3) a final paper.

Specifications for these assignments are given below.

**Assignments (due dates and proportion of course mark):**

- Annotated Bibliography (due February 9): 25%
- Asynchronous Presentation (due March 15): 25%
- Final Paper (April 6): 50%

## ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY SPECIFICATIONS

- You are asked to prepare an annotated bibliography in which you gather information on a selection of references on your topic.
- The assignment will have a title and an introduction at the beginning (before the listing of bibliographic sources with annotations).
- This assignment can be done as an individual effort or as a collective effort of a group of two or three students (all students in the group receive the same mark).
- The introduction will be of about 200 to 250 words in length and will present the topic, the debate(s) on the topic, and situate the references in relation to each other.
- The expected quantity of references to be included is the equivalent of **about twelve (12) articles or book chapters when the assignment is done by an individual student, or about fourteen (14) articles or book chapters when the assignment is done by a group** (with a book-length reference counting for about 4 articles, depending on the length; it is, however, expected that you will work mostly with articles and chapters).
- For each reference, you are asked to prepare a synthesis (about 75 to 100 words in length for each article, about 150 to 200 words for each book; conciseness is important, so please adhere to these guidelines) of the ideas presented in the article or book, making any other observations you judge to be relevant (usefulness as a source of information on a given topic, appropriateness of theoretical approach or methodology, etc.).
- Please follow consistently either the *Canadian Journal of Linguistics (CJL)* or the *American Psychological Association (APA)* bibliographic format.
- The assignment is to be presented in the following format:

**TITLE : ...**

### **Introduction**

[in paragraph format... : 200 to 250 words]

### **References**

[listed with bibliographic reference followed by summary...]

[Alphabetical order by first author, or grouped by theme, subtopic, etc.]

Here is an example of an annotated reference:

Martinet, André. 1990. La synchronie dynamique. *La Linguistique* 26: 13–23.

Starting from the observation that all languages are constantly undergoing a process of change, the author points out some of the origins of linguists' interest in the dynamic aspects of language. He outlines the results of a few studies, including his own (Martinet, 1945) and those of Ruth Reichstein and Henriette Walter, which show the evolutionary tendencies

of French that are observable synchronically. The article gives a clear presentation of some examples of dynamic synchrony ("*la synchronie dynamique*") studied by the French functionalists but makes no mention of the relevant research carried out within the framework of Labovian variationist sociolinguistics.

## **ASYNCHRONOUS PRESENTATION SPECIFICATIONS**

### **Format of the presentation:**

- A narrated PowerPoint or screencast, 10 to 15 minutes in duration
- See article summary and commentary for technical instructions
- PowerPoint slides or other visual support should provide structure to the presentation and visual support for examples and other details
- Recording yourself talking with your video camera is optional; only voice recording is required

### **Content:**

- You are encouraged to do the presentation on the topic of your annotated bibliography assignment, as a step towards the abstract and final paper assignments
- Keep in mind that this is expected to be a presentation to the class of your work in progress, so don't feel you need to give the definitive version of your work as it will appear in your final course paper
- Seek to stimulate the audience's interest in your topic.
- The presentation should usually contain the following elements, but I don't prescribe a rigidly formulaic order:
  - Introduction stating the topic, setting out main research questions
  - Examples illustrating data
  - Review of relevant research literature: account of the state of knowledge on the topic, theoretical framework (where applicable)
  - How you are approaching the topic, methodology (where applicable)
  - What you have found or intend to find through the research

## FINAL PAPER SPECIFICATIONS

This assignment involves preparing a well-structured research paper on a phonology-related topic (usually topic of annotated bibliography, presentation and abstract),

**13–15 pages in length** (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font).

Possible approaches:

- A **synthesis of the research** on a particular issue: establish a position (thesis) on the question and argue your position while critically reviewing the relevant research, with the following general structure:
  - Introduction
  - Sections corresponding to elements of the content, with subtitles
  - Conclusion
- An **empirical study** of data from your intuitions or a publicly available linguistic corpus, with the following general structure:
  - Introduction
  - Methodology
  - Hypotheses/Research questions
  - Results
  - Discussion
  - Conclusion