

LN23404CR

## FIELD WORK DISSERTATION

04 Credits

LN23405DCE  
COURSE

In this course, a language which is relatively under described or so far completely undescribed is chosen for linguistic analysis. Students are first introduced to the basic techniques of the data collection and transcription. They then collect data from the informant(s) on various aspects of language being investigated such as phonology, morphology and syntax and work out the basic structural patterns in the language. Some students also examine the pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects of the language being analyzed. At the beginning of the third semester, each student chooses a specific topic and prepares himself or herself to write a dissertation on it. Students go on a field trip to the area in which the language under investigation is spoken and collect extensive data in order to verify their hypotheses. The dissertation includes a brief typological sketch of the language and a discussion about the salient features of the language in terms of the topic chosen by the student enrolled in the course.

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## FIELD LINGUISTICS

04 credits

LN23303CR

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- It is an extensive exercise in learning how to document a language primarily by interacting with a native speaker of that language.
- By eliciting data from our consultant systematically analyzing the data, engaging with theories to describe language.

### COURSE OUTCOMES:

- The students will have a chance to practice skills as linguists, while also getting an intimate glimpse into a language previously unfamiliar to us.
- Moreover, this exercise will help highlight the value in language documentation for both scientific and cultural purposes.

### UNIT I

Field Linguistics, Nature and Scope  
Field Linguistics as an Interdisciplinary Field.  
Field Linguistics as an Input to Other Fields.

### UNIT II

Fields Methods and Methodology,  
Types of Field Research: Qualitative and Quantitative Methods.  
Informant. Selecting an Informant.  
Representative Sample and its Importance

### UNIT III

The Practical Considerations in a Field.  
Social and Ethical Dimensions of Field Work.  
Eliciting Data from the Informant.  
Techniques of Data Elicitation  
Field Linguistics in India

### UNIT IV

Analysis of Field Data. Use of Statistical Techniques in Data Analysis,  
Taking Field Notes. Steps in taking Field Notes,  
Writing a Field Report. Types of Field Reports.

### Suggested Readings:

- Atkins, B.T.S.&Zampolli, A. 1994. Computational Approaches to the Lexicon, O University Press*
- Benveniste, Emile. 1971. Problems in General Linguistics (Translated by Mary Elz Meade). University of Miami Press, Florida.*
- Hartmann, R.R.K. 1983. Dictionaries: The Art and Craft of Lexicography. Camb Cambridge University Press.*