

Message from Department of Linguistics

**The University of Hong Kong
School of Humanities
Department of Linguistics
HKU Linguistics Seminar Series**

Chimiini and the Phonology-Syntax Interface

Professor Charles W. Kisseberth

Tel Aviv University of the University of Illinois

Thursday 26 October 2017 @ 3:30pm
Rm 7.58, Run Run Shaw Tower, HKU Centennial Campus

Abstract

This talk will provide a fairly comprehensive survey of the prosodic phonology of Chimiini, an endangered Bantu language closely related to Kiswahili. The term “prosodic phonology”, in the context of Chimiini, refers to the pervasive pattern of vowel length alternations (which are the consequence of a system of “abstract stress”) and accent (=High tone). Chimiini prosody is phrasal in nature, and Chimiini has been one of the most important languages in the evolution of thinking about how phonology and syntax interface with one another. In this talk, Prof. Kisseberth will survey the development of theories of the phonology-syntax in the course of the last forty years (particularly, the Indirect Reference Model, the Optimality Theoretic implementation of the Indirect Reference Model, and Match Theory) and examine the way in which Chimiini fits into these theories and either supports or challenges these theories. The paper will focus much more on the pervasive patterns of prosody in Chimiini and the main ideas of the interface theories rather than on technical details. Thus it is anticipated that the talk will be accessible without prior knowledge of the theories discussed.

Upcoming seminars

Wed 15 November 2017 at 3:00pm CRT4.04: Prof. Colleen Fitzgerald
TBD

Thu 30 November 2017 at 4:30pm CRT7.45: Prof. Johan van de Auwera
Jointly hosted with the HKU School of English: *Negative indefinites with relation to negative concord in English and English-based creoles.*

Wed 6 December 2017 at 3:00pm CRT4.04: Prof. John Alderete
Phonological regularity, perceptual biases, and the role of phonological grammar in speech error analysis.

Future events are listed on the departmental pages at: <http://linguistics.hku.hk>