

LIN 1232 – Ergative Alignment**University of Toronto, Winter 2022****Instructor:** Arsalan Kahnemuyipour**Lecture:** M 2-4, In-person : SS 2120 ; Online : Join Zoom Meeting
<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/87906759745>
Meeting ID: 879 0675 9745
Passcode: 670981**Office Hours:** M 1-2 (or by appointment); On-line location: same as above**Office:** Sid Smith 40??**E-mail:** a.kahnemuyipour@utoronto.ca

Evaluation:	Weight	Date
Participation	5%	Ongoing
Discussion Questions/Comments	15%	Ongoing
Leading discussion of articles	20%	TBD
Paper topic proposal	5%	Feb 7
Abstract	10%	Feb 28
Abstract Peer Review/Feedback	5%	Mar 7
Presentation (Conference style)	15%	April 4
Final paper (Proceedings style)	25%	Apr 11

Course Description: This course is a seminar on ergative alignment, or perhaps more precisely on any case/agreement alignment that deviates from Nom-Acc in one way or another. We will be exploring the various theoretical approaches to the syntax of ergative alignment and will also look at several case studies from different language families. One of the takeaways of the course, I hope, is that ergativity is not a single unitary phenomenon. In other words, the course is on something that appears not to be a thing!

Readings: Readings are assigned on a weekly basis. Every student is expected to come to class having read the assigned articles. The readings are available via the library or Quercus, if needed.

Leading discussion of articles: As of the second week of classes, the discussion of articles will be led by the students. Each registered student will be responsible for leading the discussion of two readings throughout the semester. Auditors are typically encouraged to present one article as well. I will be leading the discussion of some articles myself. The assignment of readings to students will be sorted out in the first class. We also have three invited speakers in Weeks 9, 10 and 11 of the course. There will be no in-class presentations other than the invited talks in those weeks.

Discussion Questions/Comments: Starting in the second week, every student should submit one discussion question/comment on every assigned reading. The questions should be thoughtful, engaging, roughly 150-250 words long and can involve discussion of problematic argumentation in the paper, data that the analysis fails to account for, extension of proposals in the paper to other data/problems, etc. These questions should be typed up and are due on the same day the readings are discussed. (Students leading the discussion of an article in a given week do not have to submit questions at all that week.)

Term Project: Each student should work on a project throughout the semester. The project can be on any topic related to case, agreement, or any alignment-related issue. The project has different components. The first component is the topic proposal (approx. 1 page, double-spaced) due Feb 7. You should discuss your topic with me in advance. The next step in the project is an abstract (conference-style, default: CLA, though if you really want to submit to a conference, MOTH may be an option for practical reasons) due Feb 28. You will provide feedback on the abstract of a peer student, due the following week, Mar 7. I will then collect your abstracts with the peer feedback and return them to you with my own comments the week after, Mar 14. You will then work on your project and present it to the class in the final week of class (conference-style, 20 minutes plus 10 minute for questions). You will receive feedback on your presentation and will use that to write up your final paper (proceeding-style, default: CLA, approx. 12 pages). The final paper is due Apr 11.

Course Schedule (approximate):

Week	Date	Topic	Item Due (in addition to weekly comments)
1	Jan 10	Introduction	

Readings:

1. McGregor, William B. 2009. Typology of ergativity. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 3(1), 480-508.
2. Deal, Amy Rose. 2015. Ergativity. In Tibor Kiss & Artemis Alexiadou (eds.), *Syntax – Theory and analysis: An international handbook*, vol. 1. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, 654-708.

2	Jan 17	Ergative as Inherent Case	
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Readings:

1. Legate, Julie Anne. 2008. Morphological and abstract case. *Linguistic inquiry*, 39(1), 55-101.
2. Legate, Julie Anne. 2017. The locus of ergative case. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, 135-158.

3	Jan 24	Ergative as Dependent Case	
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Readings:

1. Marantz, Alec. 2000 (1991). Case and licensing. In Eric Reuland (ed.) *Arguments and Case: Explaining Burzio's Generalization*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 11-30.
2. Baker, Mark & Bobaljik, Jonathan D. 2017. On inherent and dependent theories of ergative case. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, 111-134.

4 Jan 31 TAM Split Ergativity

Readings:

1. Coon, Jessica. 2013. TAM split ergativity, Parts I and II. *Language and Linguistics Compass*, 7(3), 171-200.
2. Mahajan, Anoop. 2017. Accusative and ergative in Hindi. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, 88-110.

5 Feb 7 More on Split Ergativity **Paper Topic Proposal**

Readings:

1. Woolford, Ellen. 2017. Split ergativity in syntax and at morphological spellout. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, 205-225.
2. Coon, Jessica & Omer Preminger. 2017. Split ergativity is not about ergativity. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, 226-252.

6 Feb 14 Ergativity and Nominalization

Readings:

1. Johns, Alana. 1992. Deriving ergativity. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 23(1), 57-87.
2. Alexiadou, Artemis. 2017. Ergativity in Nominalization. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, 355-372.

Feb 21 Family day - No class

Case Studies:

7 Feb 28 Shilluk & Hindi/Urdu **Abstract**

Readings:

1. König, Christa. 2017. Ergativity in Africa. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, 900-923.
2. Butt, Miriam. 2017. Hindi/Urdu and related languages. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*, 807-831.

8 Mar 7 Georgian & Burushaski **Abstract Peer Review**

Readings:

1. Tuite, Kevin. 2017. Alignment and orientation in Kartvelian (South Caucasian). In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*.
2. Baker, Mark. 2017. Ergative case in Burushaski: A Dependent Case analysis. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*.

9 Mar 14 Inuit

Invited Speaker: Dr. Julien Carrier, Postdoctoral Fellow, UQAM

Readings:

1. Carrier, Julien. 2021. *Ergativity on the Move*. University of Toronto Doctoral Dissertation. (Read Chapter 1, esp. pages 1-6, and chapter 7, esp. pages 191-224).
2. Compton, Richard. 2017. Ergative in Inuktitut. In Jessica Coon, Diane Massam & Lisa Travis (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of Ergativity*.

10 Mar 21 Mayan

Invited Speaker: Dr. Rebecca Tollan, Assistant Professor, U Delaware

Readings:

1. Tollan, Rebecca & Lauren Clemens. 2021. Syntactic ergativity as a constraint on crossing dependencies: The perspective from Mayan. *Linguistic Inquiry*, 1-82.
2. Deal, Amy Rose. 2016. Syntactic ergativity: Analysis and identification. *Annual Review of Linguistics*, 2, 165-185.

11 Mar 28 Iranian

Invited Speaker: Sahar Taghipour, PhD Candidate, U of T

Readings:

1. Taghipour, Sahar & Arsalan Kahnemuyipour. 2021. Agreement with Deficient Pronouns in Laki: A Syntactic Repair to a Clitic Cluster Restriction. In *38th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*, Cascadilla Proceedings Project, 417-426.
2. Akkuş, Faruk. 2019. On Iranian case and agreement. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory*, 1-57.

12 Apr 4 **Presentations**

Apr 11 Final Paper Due