

Title:

Field linguistics: A guide to linguistic field work

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Field linguistics: A guide to linguistic field work. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1967.

Abstract (summary):

This book has few predecessors. The best of them are two small works published over twenty years ago, Bloomfield's Outline Guide for the Practical Study of Foreign Languages (1942) and Bloch and Trager's Outline of Linguistic Analysis (1942). There were at that time a few books about general linguistics, but not one of them was designed for the investigator taking up for the first time the study of a hitherto "unknown" language. Methodology was an important subject of discussion, but it was treated almost exclusively in technical articles. One learned how to describe languages, as it was then termed, by working with people who had already grappled with problems of analysis. To meet the need for more guidance among the growing number of field workers, Nida produced his Morphology (1946, 1st edition) and Pike his Phonemics (1947). Although these volumes were acclaimed for the contribution they made to linguistic pedagogy, they were not, strictly speaking, field guides.

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Field Linguistics. A Beginner's Guide. Terry Crowley. Edited and prepared for publication by. There are, admittedly, other guides to linguistic fieldwork, but none seems to me to be completely satisfactory. Some were written in a different technological era when reel-to-reel tapes and typewriters were our main tools. Some are far too dry, concentrating on how to take notes and how to make satisfactory voice recordings, while ignoring the interrelationships between the linguist and language speakers as people. ii Introduction to Linguistic Field Methods. 8 Prosodic Phonology . 84 1. Introduction .i. 84 2. Stress . designed to guide students down their own personal paths to linguistic discovery. Though we are theoretical linguists ourselves, this is not a book of linguistic theory The field of linguistics currently finds itself in a curious state. On one hand, most cutting-edge research in the field for the past forty years has been based on the Chomskyan premise that the primary focus of linguistic inquiry should be on the grammatical competence of the individual, regardless of the particular language (s)he speaks. 4 Linguistic Fieldwork. Fieldworkers have their own hats too. Fieldwork (and associated language description) feeds into many different areas of linguistics. On the one hand there is the descriptive element of field research – adding to what we know about the languages of the world. Recently (cf. Himmelmann 1998) there has been a movement to treat the documentation of languages as a subfield of linguistics in its own right. Then there's what we do with the documentation, such as producing reference grammars, dictionaries and other descriptive materials. Then there's what we do with those grammars, such as typology, th

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