Content:

This course introduces students to the linguistic study of the Japanese language. Of particular interest, we will investigate the formal property of the Japanese language. More specifically, students will examine the Japanese language from the generative grammatical point of view.

Objectives:

1. to gain a basic linguistic knowledge of Japanese.
2. to learn to analyze actual data and make informed observations and discoveries.
3. to be able to read scholarly materials in linguistics and understand important points.

Text:

There is no textbook in this course. However, I will assign reading materials through library reserve.

Grades: Your grades will be determined based on the followings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem set</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid term</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/discussion</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
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Coverage:

- Language acquisition (poverty of stimulus): it is the subject of how human beings (especially, children) acquire first language.
- Phonetics: how actual sounds are made in Japanese and English
- Phonology: the systematic patterning of speech sounds (devoicing; nasal assimilation; verbal conjugation; alveolar alternations; rendaku; mimetics; clipping)
- Morphology: word formation and internal structure of words (lexical category; head; bound morphemes; free morphemes)
• Syntax: how the words are put together to create grammatical sentences (phrase structures; head; subcategorization; transformation rules; configurationality; anaphora; subject; causative; passive; relative clause; unaccusativity; light verb constructions)
• Semantics: meanings of words, phrases, and sentences (truth condition; aspectual properties of verbs; verbs of giving and receiving; word formation)
• Language change: how language changes in the course of history (Historical linguistics; dialectal variation)

Schedule:

I will distribute tentative schedule.