



# Semantic Shifts

Fréjus - Destremau  
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Semantic Shifts: From lexicon to grammar. Diachronic and typological perspectives

## Semantic Course 3

### Language contact: grammaticalization & lexicalization

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This course aims at describing and modeling different patterns of colexification across the languages of northern and sub-Saharan Africa. It will explore cross-linguistic variation in the encoding of different lexical and grammatical semantic domains and present the historical trajectory of semantic change in these domains. Seeking to identify the various factors triggering change, from internal drift to areal convergence and extreme language contact, the course will survey colexification patterns across different language phyla (i.e. Afro-Asiatic, Nilo-Saharan, Niger-Congo) as well as in a number of African and Atlantic creoles lexified by different colonial languages (English, French, Portuguese, Arabic). Based on this heterogeneous language sample, we will suggest some generalizations for the typology of polysemy networks in Africa and beyond.

The course will consist of 4 sessions:

- Session 1: Colexification and language contact in Africa: an introduction
- Session 2: Colexification, language contact and lexicon: animals, body parts, kinship terms, and basic verbs
- Session 3: Colexification, language contact and grammar: prepositions, auxiliary verbs, conjunctions and subordinators, passive/reflexive and comparative constructions
- Sessions 4: Theoretical implications and directions for future research

#### Recommended reading:

François, Alexandre. 2008. Semantic maps and the typology of colexification: Intertwining polysemous networks across languages. In Martine Vanhove (ed.), *Studies in Language Companion Series*, vol. 106, 163–215. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Heine, Bernd and Tania Kuteva, 2005. *Language Contact and Grammatical Change*. Cambridge University Press.

Hayward, Richard J. 1991. A propos patterns of lexicalization in the Ethiopian Language Area. In Daniela Mendel & Ulrike Claudi (eds.), *Ägypten im afroorientalischen Kontext. Special issue of Afrikanistische Arbeitspapiere*, 139–156. Cologne: Institute of African Studies.

- Lefebvre, Claire, 1986. Relexification in creole Genesis Revisited the Case of Haitian Creole. In Pieter Muysken and Norval Smith (eds.), *Substrata versus Universals in Creole Genesis: Papers from the Amsterdam Creole Workshop, April 1985*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 279-
- List, Johann-Mattis, Simon Greenhill, Cormac Anderson, Thomas Mayer, Tiago Tresoldi & Robert Forkel (eds.). 2018. CLICS2. Jena: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
- Manfredi, Stefano, 2020. Language contact and calquing. In Christopher Lucas and Stefano Manfredi (eds.), *Arabic and Contact Induced Change*. Berlin: Language Science Press. <https://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/235>
- Manfredi, Stefano. forth. An areal typology of kin terms in the Nuba Mountain languages. *Journal of African Languages and Linguistics*.
- Segerer, Guillaume & Martine Vanhove. 2019. Color naming in Africa. *Lexicalization patterns in colour naming: a cross-linguistic perspective* (Studies in Functional and Structural Linguistics), 287–330. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Souag, Lameen, 2021. How a West African language becomes North African, and vice versa. In *Linguistic Typology* (2021): 00001015152021208
- Winford, Donald. 2005. Contact-induced change: Classification and processes. *Diachronica* 22(2). 373–427.