GRADUATE MENTOR:
Nicholas Rolle

PROJECT TITLE:
"THE TYPOLOGY AND PHONOLOGY OF NASAL VOWEL SYSTEMS IN AFRICA"

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
In this project, we will work together to investigate nasal vowels in Africa. This project asks (1) why nasal vowels are so common in Africa, while less common in the rest of the world, (2) what recurring patterns do these nasal vowel systems show, and (3) how do these nasal vowel patterns compare against other languages (e.g. to French, Portuguese, Hindi, etc.). Underlying this project is the central question whether similarities across African nasal vowel patterns are due to language relatedness, areal spread, and/or universal phonetic factors.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
The main task involves analyzing and cataloging nasal vowels of previously described African languages, and nasal vowels of languages in other nasal vowel zones in the world for comparison (e.g. in the Amazon, Mexico, India). Additional tasks will include:
- updating and co-maintenance responsibilities of the current FileMaker database
- co-maintenance responsibilities of the Google map and ArcGIS geographic software, which visualize the nasal vowel patterns across Africa.
Part of this task will involve learning relevant ArcGIS software, which will be an asset to the student. The student will also actively engage in current issues in Typology and Historical Linguistics, which will give them practical experience in these linguistic fields. In general, the student will gain excellent database management and library research skills, and be able to visualize linguistic data geographically.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
LING100 'Intro to Ling Science',
(and ideally)
LING 110 'Intro to Phonetics and Phonology', or taking simultaneously)

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
Familiarity with library research at Berkeley is an asset (melvyl, oskicat, linguistic research databases such as LLBA); knowledge of French is also an asset. You do not need familiarity with Africa or African languages to work on this project. You will learn a lot "on the job"!

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
3-6 hours a week, which will depend on student's schedule.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:

FACULTY ADVISOR: Larry Hyman
GRADUATE MENTOR:  
Emily Cibelli

PROJECT TITLE:  
Training non-native phoneme perception and production

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:  
For adult learners of a new language, the acquisition of sounds that are not part of the native inventory can be very challenging. This study investigates the types of information and techniques that can be used to help learners acquire novel phonemic contrasts. In fall 2014, this project will consist of two experiments: (1) a behavioral study, where learners will learn acoustic and articulatory representations of non-native phonemes, and (2) an EEG study, where changing neural representations will be measured from scalp ERPs.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:  
Your primary tasks in this project will be (1) recruiting and running subjects in the behavioral study, and (2) phonetically coding and transcribing production data, using Praat. Depending on your interests and experience, there may also be an opportunity to work with the pre-processing of EEG data, and/or run statistical analyses on behavioral data.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:  
Required: LING 100  
Strongly preferred: LING 110  
Not required, but perks: LING 113, LING C160 (or other statistical or experimental coursework inside or outside of the linguistics department)

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:  
Prior experience with experimental design, phonetic analysis, programming, and/or statistical analysis are a plus, but not mandatory for joining the project. However, a willingness to learn at least one of these aspects of design/analysis while involved in the project is recommended - I will help you learn or develop these skills.

A good "lab demeanor" is required for running experimental sessions - organization, reliability, friendliness, and a willingness to work with participants are critical to the study running smoothly.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:  
5-10 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:  

FACULTY ADVISOR:  Keith Johnson
GRADUATE MENTOR:
Jevon Heath

PROJECT TITLE:
Conditioning speaker variation

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
I am investigating how environmental factors affect the particular speech variants people use. I am doing this by manipulating experimental conditions, including the predictability of the response to be given, the familiarity of the voice being heard, how much attention speakers are paying to the form vs. the content of their responses, etc. I am then testing whether speakers' responses vary predictably given these different conditions, and whether individuals' prior linguistic experience has any predictable effect on features of their produced speech under these conditions.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
You will help recruit and run subjects in experiments. You will also assist in data analysis and stimulus preparation using Praat. You may also assist in experiment design if interested.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
Ling 110 is a prerequisite; Ling 113 and/or Ling 160 are a plus.

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
Skills related to running experimental sessions – reliability and good communication skills. No special experience is needed, although familiarity with writing computer scripts can come in handy.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
5-10 hrs/week

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:
The research project description given above encompasses several different experiments, not all of which will be run this semester. If particular facets of this line of research specifically interest you, I am happy to privilege their execution.

FACULTY ADVISOR:  Keith Johnson
GRADUATE MENTOR:
Matthew Faytak

PROJECT TITLE:
Evaluating inter- and intra-categorical variation in Kom

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
This project is part of ongoing research on the Kom language, spoken by about 250,000 people in northwestern Cameroon. Limited work with consultants living in the United States suggests not only unusual phonetic and phonological phenomena (for instance, two vowels produced with significant frication, approximately /z/ and /v/) but also complex patterns of inter-speaker variation in the production of these sounds (for some speakers, a set of stems can be produced with /z/, /v/, or /i/).

The current project aims to assess this variability by analyzing demographic information, a short wordlist, and a brief attitudinal survey collected from as large a number of Kom speakers as possible. As of this writing, data collection is ongoing in Cameroon, with n=22.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
Work will consist of several related tasks, the most important and time-consuming being segmenting and annotation of audio data using Praat. Phenomena to be investigated include the acoustics of all 12 vowel phonemes and their major allophones, time-course data for certain internally dynamic (i.e. diphthongal) categories, and some coarser-grained information (lexical choice, presence of category merger, etc.)

Other forms of data will also be coded and organized, especially the results of the survey. Eventual analysis of coded data may involve the apprentice, depending on their willingness and availability.

Weekly meetings are preferred to check on the apprentice's progress and to discuss difficult or ambiguous points in the data.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
LING 110 - Phonetics and Phonology.

Completion of LING 113 (Experimental Phonetics) and/or LING 160 (Quantitative Methods/ the "R class") is ideal, but not required.

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
Apprentices should be familiar with the Praat interface and TextGrid files. An ear for tone is also preferable but not required; Kom has a complex tonal system with some especially hard-to-perceive contrasts.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
6-9 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:

FACULTY ADVISOR: Keith Johnson
GRADUATE MENTOR:
Herman Leung

PROJECT TITLE:
Wiyot Digital Database

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
Wiyot is an Algic language whose last speaker died in 1964. However, a wealth of materials remain that are still of tremendous use for linguistic research and revitalization efforts in the Wiyot Tribe, including hundreds of pages of field notes, texts, two grammars, and numerous recordings.

The project will be the digitization of the above materials into the format of an online searchable database that will ultimately serve both linguists and the Wiyot community, with close collaboration with the Wiyot Tribe. The database will be similar in structure to the online Yurok and Karuk databases [http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~yurok/, http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/~karuk].

The main components of the database will include a dictionary, an archive of utterances/sentences, and an archive of audio files, with crossreferencing between them. More complicated components, such as a tree bank, are a possibility at a later stage. Another long-term goal is to facilitate comparison and reconstruction efforts between Wiyot and Yurok (and Algonquian languages).

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
Since the project has just begun this summer/fall, the apprentice will gain hands-on experience in helping create a database from scratch. The apprentice will help create and update various database and web files, scan documents, edit audio files, and analyze data in the process. The apprentice may also have the chance to contribute to the design of the database. (For candidates with coding/programming experience, tasks involving regular expressions and natural language processing may be involved.)

Due to the complexity of verb forms in the language, morphological analysis will be an important part of the process.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
Required: Ling 100
Recommended but not strictly required:
- Ling 170 in any language,
- Experience with a polysynthetic language, and/or
- Experience in morphological analysis

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
- The apprentice should be comfortable with basic coding in general, but willingness to learn is most important.
- Candidates familiar with Python may get to learn/apply natural language processing methods at some point, but it is not required.
- Previous experience in audio transcription is also helpful.
- Meticulous attention to detail is a must.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
3-9 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:
Please feel free to contact me at ermanh@berkeley.edu if you have questions or want more information about the project.
FACULTY ADVISOR: Peter Jenks
GRADUATE MENTOR:
Shinae Kang

PROJECT TITLE:
Effects of sentence context and morphological structure on speech perception

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
Pronunciation is enormously variable. Although it is possible to observe certain patterns in the variation, we still do not know how, exactly, people can navigate the continuous acoustic stream to identify discrete linguistic categories, such as words or morphemes.

This project explores the hypothesis that there is a link between patterns of pronunciation variation that can be observed in speakers, and tendencies of speech perception that can be observed in listeners. In particular, we will explore how well listeners can hear grammatical morphemes when they are pronounced in different ways. The key question is how listeners handle phonetically ambiguous sounds. Are they more likely to identify a word that is probable, or are they more likely to identify a word that corresponds to the patterns of phonetic variation we can observe in speakers?

For example, would people better hear 3rd person singular /s/-sound in the verb if it is in the sentence "The dog make's a lot of noise" than in the sentence "The people makes a lot of noise.", because it is grammatical, thus more probable? Or would it be opposite?

These questions addressed in the study will be investigated by a number of perception experiments. We expect to see the link between one's production and perception during their speech behavior more clearly.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
1. Run experimental subjects
2. Help create experimental stimuli, both by recording the stimuli and manipulating pitch and duration of the stimuli.
3. Help create experiment script by Opensesame (python-based open source experiment building software)
4. Analyze acoustic patterns in the experimental stimuli and in the recordings of the subjects.
5. Code data and create plots illustrating the results.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
1. Linguistics 100 (required) - basic knowledge in Linguistics
2. Linguistics 110 (required)
3. Linguistics 160 (desirable but not required)

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
1. Familiarity with Praat (required)
2. Familiarity with R, including base graphics (strongly desired; if apprentice is not familiar with R, then s/he should gain familiarity through a two-hour, free introduction offered through the D-Lab)
3. Familiarity with E-Prime or OpenSesame (mildly desired)

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
6 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:
This is a joint study with Clara Cohen (Ph.D., Berkeley, cpcohen@berkeley.edu) extending the question raised in her dissertation. Prospective apprentice will be provided with a necessary background and prior knowledge about the study, so that he/she can better understand this follow-up project.
This project is a great opportunity to get familiarized with and learn some of the key tools used in experimental linguistics.

**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Keith Johnson
GRADUATE MENTOR:
Elise Stickles

PROJECT TITLE:
Deictic and metaphoric gestures in computer-mediated communication and video corpora

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
This study investigates how we comprehend and produce two kinds of gestures: deictic gestures (such as pointing), and metaphoric gestures (i.e., gestures that convey the source domain of a conceptual metaphor).

The comprehension component entails an experiment that seeks to compare how people understand deictic and metaphoric gesturing in face-to-face vs. computer-mediated (Skype) communication.

The production component involves collecting data from online video corpora in order to study the types of metaphoric gestures that are produced in non-experimental settings.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
You will schedule and run participants for the experiment; depending on the timeframe and your level of skill and interest, you may also be involved with analysis of the results.

Depending on your level of familiarity with gesture analysis and cognitive linguistics, you will also perform video corpora searches to document the types of gestures which co-occur with metaphoric speech.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
No prerequisites are required, but any of Ling 125 (Gesture, Cognition, & Culture); Ling C105/Cog Sci C101 (Mind and Language); or Ling 106 (Metaphor) are helpful. A course in statistical or experimental analysis (Ling C160 or otherwise) would be a plus too.

Willingness to read/learn the related theoretical and experimental literature is more important.

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
You should be interested in topics related to cognition and language, such as the interaction of gesture and language, metaphor theory, and social cognition. Familiarity with gesture analysis would be helpful, but that can be developed on the job.

Skills related to successfully running experimental sessions (reliability, ability to work with participants, good communication skills) are key.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
6-9 hours (flexible)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:
You also must be willing to be video-recorded for purposes of the experiment.

FACULTY ADVISOR: Eve Sweetser
GRADUATE MENTOR:  
Nico Baier

PROJECT TITLE:  
A cross-linguistic survey of anti-agreement

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:  
In this project, we will be conducting a cross-linguistic survey of anti-agreement. Anti-agreement is a phenomenon whereby the normal subject-predicate agreement pattern(s) of a language are disrupted by subject extraction (wh-questions, relativization, focus). Anti-agreement effects have received a fair amount of attention in the generative literature, and have been documented in a wide variety of languages. The main aims of the project are to see if new cases of anti-agreement can be found and to begin to understand the parameters along which these effects vary.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:  
As we will be seeking undocumented cases of anti-agreement, a lot of the work will involve gathering data on languages' agreement systems and if/how these systems interact with extraction. This means locating and reading through grammars (and other documentation such as sketches and articles) to see if new cases can be found. As most grammars do not deal with anti-agreement effects head on, this will often require digging into examples in the text. Other tasks include providing summaries of findings and organizing data in a basic database (probably just an excel spreadsheet).

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:  
The apprentice should have basic knowledge of linguistics, with an interest in syntax and/or morphology. Knowledge and interest in typology is also helpful.

The apprentice should have already taken Ling 100 and Ling 120 and should feel comfortable or at least willing to engage with unfamiliar syntactic and morphological structures.

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:  
Familiarity with library research at Berkeley (melvyl, oskicat, linguistic research databases) would be ideal, though not strictly necessary. I will provide any training necessary conducting literature searches on the database that is chosen.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:  
3-9 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WAISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:  
FACULTY ADVISOR: Peter Jenks
GRADUATE MENTOR:
Tammy Stark

PROJECT TITLE:
A phonological reconstruction of proto-Caribbean Northern Arawak

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
My goal for this project is to reconstruct the phonological system of proto-Caribbean Northern Arawak. This group comprises the Northernmost members of the Arawak language family of South America. These languages are spoken on the Caribbean coast of South America, and in the Central American countries of Honduras, Belize, and Nicaragua.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
Students assisting with this project will harvest wordlists from members of this language branch using published materials (such as dictionaries and grammars of the languages under study) and unpublished materials (such as my own fieldnotes or those shared with me by colleagues). We will then build cognate sets together from which we will be able to create correspondence sets and reconstruct the Proto-Caribbean Northern Arawak phonological system.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
Students who have completed Linguistics 100 and 130 would be best suited for this project, but students concurrently enrolled in Linguistics 130 will be considered.

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
Reading knowledge of Spanish and/or French would be very helpful for this project, as many of the published materials on these languages are not available in English.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
5-10 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:

FACULTY ADVISOR: Lev Michael and Line Mikkelsen
GRADUATE MENTOR:
Jonathan Manker

PROJECT TITLE:
The Effect of Lexical Category on the Diffusion of Sound Change

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
Lexical diffusion is a theory of sound change whereby phonetic innovations spread from words to other similar words, rather than all instances of a sound in a language changing at the same time. While innovations may spread to words that are phonetically similar, this project will attempt to isolate the effect of lexical categories (nouns, verbs, etc.), if any, on the spread of the sound changes. To test this, we will set up two experiments. In the first, an accommodation type experiment will measure minute phonetic changes in pronunciation when listeners are presented with modified stimuli. The second will investigate the spread of phonemic changes when participants are given a synthetic phonological grammar which they must apply to new words. Both experiments should shed light on whether sound changes are more likely to spread among words that are in the same lexical class or if there is no effect.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
The apprentice will help in setting up the experiment. This may involve recording and editing the sound clips, preparing the lab for the experiment, helping the participants during the experiment, and measuring, analyzing, and organizing the data after it is recorded.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
Ling 100 (Intro to Linguistics) and Ling 110 (Phonetics) definitely. Ling 113 (Experiment Phonetics) is highly recommended.

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
Experience in using Praat, possibly Python.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
6 hours, flexible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:

FACULTY ADVISOR: Andrew Garrett
GRADUATE MENTOR:
Hannah Sande

PROJECT TITLE:
Guébie (Kru) online database of Guébie

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:
We will be creating an online database of Guébie, a Kru language spoken in Côte d'Ivoire, based on nine months of original data collection both in the US and in the field. The data consists of short texts and extended amounts of elicitation materials. These will be entered, glossed, tagged, and aligned to audio if the audio exists.

The completed database will serve three main functions: 1) I will write a script to turn database entries into a Guébie dictionary, 2) The database will be queryable, allowing us to answer phonological and syntactic questions about the realization of phonemes or morphemes in a given context, and 3) The database will have the capability to reproduce example sentences in LaTeX, making them easy to find and type up later.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:
The apprentice and I will work through my fieldnotes, both in digital and hand-written formats, entering the data into the database and glossing it. If correctly glossed, the database will be searchable and useful for future Guébie research. The majority of the glossing is already finished, and the apprentice would be helping to enter the data into the database. If the apprentice feels comfortable doing so, he/she is welcome to help me gloss the remaining data before entering it. The apprentice will gain a linguistic knowledge of Guébie, and will learn data entry and maintenance skills.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:
The apprentice need not have prior experience working with an online database, but a solid knowledge of morphology, syntax, and phonology is necessary. The apprentice should have taken Ling 100, and ideally also Ling 110 and Ling 115 or Ling 120.

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:
The apprentice should be willing and eager to spend time learning the linguistic structure of Guébie. He/she should have easy access to a computer and internet, and an apprentice who speaks French is preferred. The database is original and unique to this project, so no prior database skills are. The apprentice will be trained on how to enter data into the database.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:
3 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:

FACULTY ADVISOR: Larry Hyman
GRADUATE MENTOR: Christine Sheil

PROJECT TITLE: Scottish Gaelic Database

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT: The goal of this project is to create a tagged and searchable database of Scottish Gaelic.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT: The apprentice should be familiar with syntactic and morphological terms and concepts, and should be confident in their ability to identify certain syntactic constructions (to be discussed in meetings) in Scottish Gaelic. The tasks will include data-entry (Scottish Gaelic sentences and their English translations), glossing the Scottish Gaelic sentence, and tagging for syntactic constructions (e.g. cleft sentence). Ideally, the apprentice will also have a working knowledge of Python, as the organization of the database is still in process.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED: Ling 120

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE: The apprentice will have an interest in syntax, and in seeing what is involved in creating a database.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED: 3 hours

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:

FACULTY ADVISOR: Line Mikkelsen
**GRADUATE MENTOR:**
Marilola Perez

**PROJECT TITLE:**
Event realization and grammatical relations in Philippine Creole Spanish (PCS)

**DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:**
This research project addresses general questions regarding language contact and grammaticalization processes, that is, how languages change.

Languages differ in how their grammars mark the semantic roles associated with different events. This project describes grammatical relations in the Cavite variety of Philippine Creole Spanish, an endangered Spanish lexified contact language spoken in the Philippines. Like other contact languages, PCS has different linguistic strategies to make up for a poor morphological system; for example, grammatical relations can be conveyed: analytically, by means of grammaticalized versions of content words in the lexifier; word order; and, overwhelmingly, discourse context. This project has a comparative component as it investigates whether, and how PCS constructions use the above mentioned mechanisms to replicate (or not) parallel constructions in its Philippine adstrate. Philippine languages are well-known for having a complex morphological system that marks extremely nuanced semantic/pragmatic differences. Therefore, PCS and Philippine languages present a fertile ground for a comparison.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:**
After becoming familiar with the main linguistic features of PCS, the research apprentice's main task will be to work on coding data gathered from fieldwork and some texts. As the apprentice understands the sound and structure of Chabacano, he or she may be asked to use ELAN to work on broad transcriptions of interviews carried out during fieldwork. Though unlikely, I may ask the apprentice to examine, and annotate descriptions of relevant languages from grammars available in the library.

**PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:**
Apprentice must have LING 100 and preferably, LING 120. LING 181 (Lexical Semantics) is desired but not necessary.

**SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:**
This will be an interesting project for a student with a strong interest in argument realization who already has the ability to identify grammatically relevant components of verb meaning, i.e. identify whether a verb is intransitive/transitive/ ditransitive and identify core semantic arguments (e.g. agent, patient....). Since the project works on issues related to semantic meaning, and due to the short amount of time to become familiar with the language, the apprentice must have advanced competence in Spanish. This skill can be substituted by native competence in Tagalog. It's ok if the apprentice doesn't have previous experience with ELAN.

**HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:**
3 hours

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:**

**FACULTY ADVISOR:** Lev Michael
GRADUATE MENTOR:  
Sarah Bakst

PROJECT TITLE:  
Cues to retroflexion in Hindi and Tamil

DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT:  
The primary cue to a retroflex consonant is typically considered to be a low third formant in the vowel preceding the consonant. Many Indo-European languages of South Asia, such as Hindi, allow word-initial retroflexes, which may not always follow a vowel. This means that this low third formant cue might not always be available, and speakers might rely more heavily on some other cue, such as the consonant burst. In Dravidian languages like Tamil, there are very few words with word-initial retroflexes, so the low third formant cue is probably always available. This experiment seeks to determine whether speakers of Hindi and Tamil use different cues to retroflexion.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK APPRENTICE WOULD DO ON THE PROJECT:  
You will be in charge of running the experiment in the phonetics lab. Depending on timeframe, skill level, and your interest, you may also help with creating the experiment in OpenSesame, adjusting of stimuli using the Klatt synthesizer, and statistical analysis of the results of the experiment.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK THAT APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE COMPLETED:  
Preference may be given to students who have taken some or all of the following courses: Ling 100, 110, 113, 160.

SPECIAL SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE THAT THE APPRENTICE SHOULD HAVE:  
Some experience with Praat and OpenSesame or with running an experiment is helpful but not required. Any skills required for the project can be learned on the job, and I will help you. What is required are the traits that make for any successful experiment: moderate people skills, professionalism, reliability, and the ability to adapt.

HOURS PER WEEK OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED:  
3-5 hours (flexible)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO PROVIDE A PROSPECTIVE APPRENTICE:  

FACULTY ADVISOR:  Keith Johnson