

## **SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

Fall Term 2017

LING 812 Topics in Linguistics (4 units)

Narrative and Discourse Structure of a First Nations Language (Hul'q'umi'num')

Instructor: Donna Gerdts; Elder: Ruby Peter  
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Location: TBA, Duncan, BC  
Dates/Times: TBA

### **Course Description**

The purpose of the course is to gain skills in understanding, analyzing, and creating Hul'q'umi'num' stories. We will start by listening to stories recorded from Elders in the last century, and studying them in terms of:

- Narrative structure—how to do introductions and endings, organizing oral paragraphs using parallelism, connecting the end of one paragraph with the beginning of the next, building up to a climax, etc.
- Rhetorical structure—using reported speech, repetitions, pauses, and carefully placed markers of evidence and attitude.
- The structure of connected sentences—connective particles, inflection in subordinated clauses, word orders, etc.
- Expressing participants—using noun phrases versus demonstrative pronouns versus zero, using lexical suffixes, etc.
- Intonation—using pitch, loudness, and length to add expression and interest.

Also, students will gain skills at writing stories pitched at intermediate learners. Stories can be in Hul'q'umi'num' or composed in English and then translated with help from the Elders.

Topics to be covered include tips for making authentic translations, avoiding translation pitfalls, practice using the dictionary and other resource materials. Also covered will be best practices for audio recording and sound editing using Audacity. Students will practice recording and transcribing and writing their own stories.

By the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Translate stories from English to Hul'q'umi'num' (with help from Elders if needed).
- Record a story and make a transcription.
- Edit the transcription with help from Elders.
- Take a story and turn it into an educational unit, drawing out its cultural significance and linguistic and rhetorical structure.

### **Course Materials:**

To be distributed in class, including the reading list below.

### **Evaluation:**

Assignments	30%
Story	40%
Story performance & teaching unit	30%

**Reading list:**

- Gerds, Donna B., and Thomas E. Hukari (2008) "The Expression of Noun Phrases in Halkomelem Texts," *Anthropological Linguistics* 50.3/4:1–41.
- Gerds, Donna B., and Thomas E. Hukari (2004) "Determiners and Transitivity in Halkomelem Texts," in Donna B. Gerds and Lisa Matthewson, eds. *Studies in Salish Linguistics in Honor of M. Dale Kinkade*, *UMOPL 17*, Missoula, 150–170.
- Gerds, Donna B. (2001) "Narrative Devices in a Halkomelem Story," paper presented at the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas/Workshop on American Indigenous Languages, University of California, Santa Barbara.