

## HEATHER A. LITTLEFIELD

### EDUCATION

**PhD**, 2006, Applied Linguistics, Boston University  
*Syntax and Acquisition in the Prepositional Domain: Evidence from English for Fine-grained Syntactic Categories*

**Participant**, Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute  
2005: Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
1999: University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
1997: Cornell University

**Master of Arts**, 1997, Applied Linguistics, Boston University.  
*Language Policy and Education Reform in West Africa*

**Bachelor of Arts with Honors**, 1991, Communication, Boise State University, Idaho  
*Presidential Propaganda: Bush's War of Words*

### PRIMARY RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Syntax**: especially the distinction between lexical and functional categories

**First language acquisition**: acquisition of syntax and semantics

**Morphology and syntax of the Fula**: the verbal paradigm, especially applicatives

**Language in developing nations**: first language use in education, language policy and planning, political issues surrounding language choice

**Language and gender**: anticipate developing a research program investigating the role of gender in language acquisition

### FELLOWSHIPS AND RECENT AWARDS

**Nominated for the *University-wide Teaching Excellence Award*** at Northeastern University (note: ineligible for award because not full-time faculty)

***Who's Who Among American Teachers***. Selected for inclusion in 2004

**Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship**. Applied Linguistics Program, Boston University; 2000-2001

**Member of Phi Sigma Iota** (Foreign Language Honor Society). Boston University; 1997, 2000

**Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship**. African Studies Program, Boston University; 1997-2000

- Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute Fellowship.** University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; 1999
- Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship.** African Studies Program, Boston University; 1996-1997
- Forensics Scholarship** (Speech and Debate Team). Boise State University; 1988-1991
- Harvey Pitman Communication Scholarship Award.** Boise State University; 1989-1990
- Communication Department Scholarship Award.** Boise State University; 1987-1988

## **RESEARCH**

### **I. PUBLICATIONS AND RECENT MANUSCRIPTS**

- Littlefield, H. (2005) "Lexical and Functional Prepositions in Acquisition: Evidence for a Hybrid Category." *Boston University Conference on Language Development 29, Online Proceedings Supplement*.
- Githiora, C, H. Littlefield, & V. Manfredi (eds). (2004) *Trends in African Linguistics 6: Kinyāra Njīra!--Step Firmly on the Pathway*. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press.
- Littlefield, H. (2003) "The Developmental Patterns of Prepositions and Homophonous Adverbs and Particles." Manuscript, Boston University.
- Littlefield, H. (2003) "Object Asymmetry in Fula Applicatives." Manuscript, Boston University.
- Littlefield, H. (2002) "Book Review: *Beyond Ebonics*." *Linguistics and Education* 13 (1): 137-141.\*  
 \*Note: this review was the third most requested piece (including both full articles and reviews) from this journal during 2002, as judged by hits on the publisher's website.
- Greenhill, A., H. Littlefield, & C. Tano (eds). (1999) *Boston University Conference on Language Development Proceedings 23*. Boston: Cascadilla Press.
- Greenhill, A., M. Hughes, H. Littlefield, and H. Walsh (eds). (1998) *Boston University Conference on Language Development Proceedings 22*. Boston: Cascadilla Press.
- Littlefield, H. (1997) "Language Policy and Education Reform in West Africa." Master's Thesis, Boston University.

## II. PRESENTATIONS

- Littlefield, H. (2005) "Prepositions in Acquisition: Evidence for a Semi-Lexical Category." Talk sponsored by the *Northeastern University Linguistics Club*, Boston, MA, April 2005.
- Littlefield, H. (2004) "Lexical and Functional Prepositions in Acquisition: Evidence for a Hybrid Category." *Boston University Conference on Language Development 29*, Boston, MA, November 2004. Poster.
- Littlefield, H. (2004) "Prepositions as a Hybrid Category: Semi-lexical Categories." *Boston University Research Sharing Forum*, Boston, MA, April 2004.
- Littlefield, H. (2003) "Preposition Acquisition in English." *Boston University Research Sharing Forum*, Boston, MA, February 2003.
- Littlefield, H. (2002) "The Acquisition of Prepositions, Adverbs and Particles in early child language." *Boston University Research Sharing Forum*, Boston, MA, March 2002.
- Littlefield, H. (2001) "Fula Applicatives in Lexical Mapping Theory." *Boston University Research Sharing Forum*, Boston, MA, February 2003.
- Littlefield, H. (2000) "Fula Applicatives: The Instrumental and Benefactive Constructions." *Boston University Research Sharing Forum*, Boston, MA, September 2000.
- Littlefield, H. (1999) "Fula Extensions: A Descriptive and Theoretical Exploration." *Seventh Annual Graduate Student Research Conference on African Studies*, Boston University, Boston, MA, March 1999.
- Littlefield, H. (1998) "Sociocultural Reasons for the Failure of French as a Medium of Instruction In West African Primary Schools." *Annual Conference of African Linguistics (ACAL)*, Yale University, March 1998.
- Littlefield, H. (1998) "Fula Extensions: An Exploration." *Annual Conference of African Linguistics (ACAL)*, Yale University, March 1998.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### I. UNDERGRADUATE COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

Northeastern University, Boston, MA.

**African Linguistics** (LIN/AFR428): Fall 2003, Winter 2002, Spring 1999

**History of the English Language** (LIN/ENG454): Spring 2005, Fall 2003, Spring 2003, Spring 2002, Spring 1999

**Introduction to Language and Linguistics** (LIN/ENG150): Fall 2004, Fall 2002 (2 sections), Winter 2001

**Introduction to Syntax** (LIN/ENG450): Spring 2002, Winter 2001, Spring 2000

**Language and Culture** (LIN/SOA412): Fall 2004, Fall 2003, Fall 2002, Spring 2001, Fall 2001, Winter 2000

**Language and Gender** (LIN/ENG456): Fall 2004, Spring 2001

**Linguistic Analysis** (LIN/ENG350): Spring 2004, Winter 2000  
Note: previously Introduction to Language and Linguistics II

**Semantics** (LIN/ENG452): Spring 2005, Winter 1999

**Seminar in Linguistics: Morphology** (LIN/ENG654): Spring 2005, Spring 2000

**Seminar in Linguistics: Pidgins and Creoles** (LIN/ENG654): Winter 2002

**Topics in Linguistics: Lexical and Functional Categories** (LIN/ENG458):  
Spring 2004

School of Professional and Continuing Studies, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

**Language and Gender** (SOC4179): Winter 2005

Note: this course was designed in response to a call for new-course proposals; the design included reading lists, syllabus, learning outcomes statement, and a statement integrating the course into the curriculum.

**Linguistics** (ENG4501): Winter 2005, Winter 2004, Winter 2003, Winter 2002, Winter 2001, Fall 1999, Fall 1998

## II. GRADUATE COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

Northeastern University, Boston, MA.

**History of the English Language** (ENG3402): Fall, 2003, Spring 2002

**Linguistics and Writing** (ENG3322): Fall 2000

**Semantics** (ENG3401): Winter 1999

Boston University, Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, Boston, MA

**Language Theories, Acquisition, and Analysis** (CD708): Fall 2000

Boston University, School of Education, Boston, MA

**Introduction to Language** (LS602): Summer 1998

**Introduction to Language and Language Acquisition** (LS560): Fall 2001

**Language Acquisition** (LS566): Summer 2005

### III. GUEST LECTURES

“Complements, Adjuncts, and X-Bar Theory.” For Dr. Rachel Hayes-Harb, Introduction to Syntax (LIN/ENG450), Northeastern University, Boston, MA, February 2003.

“Topics in Syntax: Structural Ambiguity.” For Dr. Janet Randall, Linguistic Analysis (LIN/ENG350), Northeastern University, Boston, MA, Spring 2003.

“Topics in Syntax: WH-movement.” For Dr. Janet Randall, Graduate level Intro to Linguistics, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, Spring 2003.

“Acquisition of Semantics.” For Dr. Marnie Reed: Introduction to Language and Language Acquisition (LS560), Boston University, Boston, MA, February 2001.

“Using CHILDES in Language Acquisition Research.” For Dr. Marco Haverkort; Language Acquisition and Linguistic Theory (LX700), Boston University, Boston, MA, February 1998.

### III. OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Examiner for English Department Graduate Exams.** Northeastern University, Boston, MA, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004  
Prepared linguistics questions for the “Special Work” section of the graduate Comps exam; evaluated and prepared written feedback for students who completed this section of the exam.

**Teaching Assistant: Syntax I: Government and Binding** (Graduate), Boston University, Boston, MA, Fall 1998

**Teaching Assistant: Language, Culture and Society** (Undergraduate), Boston University, Boston, MA, Fall 1997

**ESL Instructor:** EF International Language Schools, Brookline, MA, 1994-1996

**TEFL Instructor:** United States Peace Corps, Guinea, West Africa, 1992-1993

**Private Piano and Voice Instructor:** Self-employed, Boise, Idaho, 1990-1991

**Honors Seminar Facilitator:** Honors Program, Boise State University, 1989-1991

**Teacher Assistant: Rhetoric and Debate:** Boise State University, 1990 and 1991

**Team Captain:** Speech and Debate Team, Boise State University, 1990-1991

**French Tutor:** Foreign Language Department, Boise State University, 1987-1988

**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**Interim Director of the Linguistics Program:** Northeastern University, Boston, MA, 2003-2004

Responsible for program administration, course scheduling and staffing (including hiring three new part-time lecturers), student advising and course registration, senior graduation clearances, advising the Linguistics Club, organizing and attending Freshman Orientation sessions through the summer, and attending all administrative meetings that the Program Director would normally attend.

Responsibilities began Summer Session I, 2003, and continued through the end of Spring semester, 2004.

**Directed Research Project Advisor:** Northeastern University, Boston, MA, 2004-present

Guide individual undergraduate students through a small research project and paper that will fulfill their senior capstone course: Experiential education (LIN954). The following projects have been completed under my direction:

Carney, Danielle. (2005) "Do children acquire prepositions, adverbs, and particles by imitating their parents?"

Kaneko, Masako. (2004) "Acquisition of Japanese postpositions."

Penuel, Tabitha. (2004) "Another look at 'down' and what it can tell us about child language development."

Saadi, Zina. (2005) "Evidence of developmental patterns in the acquisition of a language: A study of prepositions and particles in Arabic."

**SERVICE**

Public Lecture: History of the English Language, Sherborn Public Library, Sherborn, MA, Spring 2004

Founder, facilitator, organizer: Boston University Research Sharing Forum, 1998-2001

Co-organizer: Annual Conference on African Linguistics, 2000

Co-organizer: Boston University Conference on Language Acquisition, 1998, 1999

Council on Aging Volunteer, Sherborn, MA. Conduct monthly sing-along for area seniors. 2002-present

United States Peace Corps Volunteer, Guinea, West Africa. Natural Resource Management and Appropriate Technology Extensionist (1991-1992); Teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) Instructor, Lycée Poudrière (1992-1993).

**LANGUAGE BACKGROUND**

English: Native speaker

French: Fluent (time in France, 2 years in Francophone West Africa)

Fula, Fouta-Djallon dialect (9 months immersion in Guinea; 1 year coursework at Boston University)

Languages studied: German, Spanish, Mandarin