## **What do we talk about, when we talk about the history of linguistics?** A view from the United States

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## How to access the 2008 Survey Results

The Excel spreadsheet posted here (labeled '2008 Survey Checklist Results') is formatted as a pivot table, which summarizes and organizes the findings from a survey carried out in 2008 of the orientations of 126 students of linguistics toward the history of linguistics.

Included in the table is information about which key figures in the history of linguistics the respondents were asked to identify; those figures' birth dates; and the percentage of respondents who could confidently identify that figure, who could not identify him or her at all, or who could identify the person's name, but not recall his or her contribution to the history of linguistics.

The pivot table allows readers to sort, filter, count, and restructure these data at will. This can be accomplished most readily if readers have access to versions of the spreadsheet software Excel that date from 2010 or later. However, the chart can still used with earlier versions of Excel, by clicking through the 'error' or 'troubleshooting messages when the spreadsheet is first opened, and continuing as 'read-only'. We also provide alternative, open source (.zip) formats.

How to use the pivot table

Open the file labeled '2008 Survey Results'

Click on the filter button in the top left cell entitled *Row* to manipulate the arrangement of the data. This feature can be used to filter the data according to (for example) the name of the 'key figure' or the 'year' (the person's birthdate) by selecting either option from the drop-down *Subject field* menu.

The chart also allows users to sort the data in ascending or descending order; to isolate values—for instance, 'values between 50 and 100 percent'; and to display the top and bottom ten items.

A model search might look something like this:

To isolate data on figures in linguistics between the 17th and 21st centuries that 50% or more of respondents did not recognize:

- 1. Set the Subject field to 'year'
- 2. Under *Filter* 'by label', select 'between' from the drop-down menu
- 3. Enter the target time period in the left and right fields: '1600, 2000'
- 4. Now, under *Filter* 'by value', select 'greater than' from the drop-down menu
- 5. Enter '50' to isolate figures in the target time frame who were not recognized by more than half of the survey respondents

The chart can be returned to its original composition by selecting 'clear filter.'

Microsoft Office provides a more comprehensive online guide (https://support.office.com/en-au/article/Overview-of-PivotTable-and-PivotChartreports-527c8fa3-02c0-445a-a2db-7794676bce96), which provides step-by-step instructions on ways to further explore and manipulate the data in a pivot chart by expanding and collapsing data fields; by sorting, filtering, and grouping fields and items; by changing summary functions, and adding custom calculations and formulas; and by reformatting the layout of the table.