

Subject Code	ENGL539
Subject Title	English Semantics and Lexis
Credit Value	3
Level	5
Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion	N/A
Objectives	This subject aims to develop students' knowledge of English morphology and semantics. It helps students to understand the linguistic concepts and their relationships to form, meaning and context of word use. It also trains students' skills in using language corpora and other online resources to investigate and generalize trends in modern vocabulary.
Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <p>Category A: Professional/academic knowledge and skills</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> understand the diachronic and synchronic change of English vocabulary; analyze and describe morphological structure and semantic meaning of English words; apply concepts learnt to lexical analysis in various contexts and for different purposes; use corpora to investigate and develop lexical knowledge. <p>Category B: Attributes for all-roundedness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> display critical and creative thinking in reading; develop a range of strategies for life-long learning through reading and computer research.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<p>Students will explore most/all of these areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical development of English vocabulary Morphological study: word formation Semantic study: word meaning and sense relations Metaphorical and figurative meanings Words in use Neologisms and semantic change Investigating vocabulary through corpora Early lexical acquisition
Teaching/Learning Methodology	Interactive lectures and group discussions, supplemented by use of Blackboard discussion and online corpus study.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed					
			a	b	c	d	e	f
	1. In-class test	40%	✓	✓	✓		✓	
	2. Term paper	60%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Total	100%						
	<p>The assessments are designed to develop students' interest, sensitivity and ability in lexical study. The in-class test is to check students' understanding of basic concepts of semantics and morphology, and their ability to apply the knowledge to the analysis of word structure and word meaning in isolation and in context. The term paper is a brief report on individual lexical research through a particular method.</p>							
Student Study Effort Required	Class contact:							
	▪ Lecture		39 Hrs.					
	▪ Seminar		0 Hrs.					
	Other student study effort:							
	▪ Assessment preparation		37 Hrs.					
	▪ Class preparation (including reading)		44 Hrs.					
	Total student study effort		120 Hrs.					
Reading List and References	<p>Recommended reading Aitchison, J. (2003). <i>Words in the mind</i>. London: Blackwell. Baker, P. (ed.) (2009). <i>Contemporary corpus linguistics</i>. London: Continuum. Béjoint, H. (2010). <i>The lexicography of English</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Jackson H. & E. Z. Amvela (2007). <i>Words, Meaning and Vocabulary: An Introduction to Modern English Lexicology</i>. London: Continuum. Kroeger, P. (2022). <i>Analyzing meaning: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics</i>. Language Science Press.</p>							

	<p>Cann, R., Kempson, R. and Eleni Gregoromichelaki, E. (2009) <i>Semantics: an introduction to meaning in language</i>. Cambridge, UK/ New York: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Carter, R. (2003). <i>Vocabulary: applied linguistic perspectives</i>, 3rd edition, London: Routledge.</p> <p>Deignan, A. (2005). <i>Metaphor and corpus linguistics</i>. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.</p> <p>Hanks, P. (2013). <i>Lexical analysis: Norms and exploitations</i>. Cambridge, Mass./London, England: The MIT Press.</p> <p>Goatly, A. (1997). <i>The language of metaphors</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Grimshaw, J. B. (2005). <i>Words and structure</i>. Stanford, CA: Center for the Study of Language and Information.</p> <p>Howard, J. (2002). <i>Grammar and vocabulary: A resource book for students</i>, London/New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Lakoff, G. and Johnson, M. (1980). <i>Metaphors we live by</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.</p> <p>Metcalf, A. (2002). <i>Predicting new words: secret of their success</i>. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.</p> <p>Partington, A. (1998). <i>Patterns and meanings: using corpora for English language research and teaching</i>. Amsterdam; Philadelphia: J Benjamins.</p> <p>Sinclair, J. (2003). <i>Reading concordances</i>. Harlow: Pearson/Longman.</p> <p>Sinclair, J. (2004). <i>Trust the text: Language corpus and discourse</i>. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Steen, G. (2007) <i>Finding Metaphor in Grammar and Usage</i>. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.</p> <p>Stubbs, M. (2001). <i>Words and Phrases: corpus studies of lexical semantics</i>. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.</p>
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