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| Subject Code | FH6050 |
| Subject Title | Linguistic Theories |
| Credit Value | 3 |
| Level | 6 |
| Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion | N/A |
| Objectives | This subject aims at acquainting students with theories of language and linguistic studies at a sophisticated level. It tries to cater to the overall needs of students from all the four strands, but will also disseminate strand-specific knowledge through assigned readings. |
| Intended Learning Outcomes | <p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) demonstrate an advanced knowledge of past and current theories related to the study of language; b) Analyze and evaluate specific theoretical claims with a scientific and objective attitude; c) Perceive the social, sociological, geographic and academic reasons that have motivated and shaped the development of linguistic theories over the past one hundred years. d) Relate theories of linguistics with the mainstream theories of communication and language use |
| Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview/review: History of modern linguistic theory 2. Syntactic theories: e.g., Transformational theory to Minimalism, Lexical Functional Grammar, and Construction Grammar 3. Semantic theories 4. Pragmatic theory |
| Teaching/Learning Methodology | Students will be required to approach theories through both lectures and selected readings. They will be required to be actively engaged in in-class discussions so as to grasp the spirit of particular linguistic claims. Emphasis will be laid on nurturing an impartial attitude towards theories. |

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| Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes | Specific assessment methods/tasks | % weighting | Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate) | | | |
| | | | a | b | c | d |
| | 1. Participation and discussion | 20% | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| | 2. Short essays presenting & critiquing theories and theoretical claims | 80% | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| | Total | 100 % | | | | |
| | Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes: The short essays are intended to train the students’ ability of applying linguistic theories to the analysis of linguistic data and to help students develop their ideas and present them in academic writing. | | | | | |
| Student Study Effort Expected | Class contact: | | | | | |
| | ▪ Seminars | | | | 39Hrs. | |
| | Other student study effort: | | | | | |
| | ▪ Readings | | | | 38Hrs. | |
| | ▪ Writing | | | | 38Hrs. | |
| | Total student study effort | | | | 115Hrs. | |
| Reading List and References | Overviews: Aronoff, Mark. and J. Rees-Miller (eds.) (2003). <i>The Handbook of Linguistics</i> . Wiley-Blackwell. Heine, Bernd. and Heiko Narrog (eds.) (2010) <i>The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Analysis</i> . Oxford University Press. | | | | | |
| | History of linguistics theories: | | | | | |
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| | <p>Allan, Keith (ed.). 2013. <i>The Oxford Handbook of the History of Linguistics</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Harris, Roy. and Talbot Taylor (eds.) (1997). <i>Landmarks In Linguistic Thought</i> Volume I: The Western Tradition From Socrates To Saussure (History of Linguistic Thought), Routledge. [on Frege, Saussure]</p> <p>Hymes, Dell & John Fought. 1981. <i>American Structuralism</i>. The Hague: Mouton.</p> <p>Joseph, John, Nigel Love & Talbot Taylor (eds.). (2001). <i>Landmarks in Linguistic Thought</i> Volume II: The Western Tradition in the Twentieth Century (History of Linguistic Thought) Routledge [on Chomsky, Austin, Goffman, et al.]</p> <p>Robins, R.H. 1967. <i>A short history of linguistics</i>. London: Longman.</p> <p>Sampson, Geoffrey. (1980). <i>Schools of Linguistics</i>. Stanford University Press.</p> <p>Seuren, Peter. (1998). <i>Western Linguistics: an Historical Introduction</i>. Wiley-Blackwell. [Part II very good on logical semantics]</p> <p>Cognitive linguistics:</p> <p>Butler, Christopher S. & Francisco González-García. 2014. <i>Exploring functional-cognitive space</i>. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins.</p> <p>Croft, William & D. Alan Cruse. 2004. <i>Cognitive linguistics</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Geeraerts, Dirk & Hubert Cuyckens (eds.). 2007. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Lakoff, George. 1987. <i>Women, fire and dangerous things: what categories reveal about the mind</i>. Chicago: Chicago University Press.</p> <p>Langacker, Ronald W. 2009. <i>Investigations in cognitive grammar</i>. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.</p> <p>Langacker, Ronald W. 2013. <i>Essentials of cognitive grammar</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Construction grammar:</p> |
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| | <p>Croft, William. 2001. <i>Radical Construction Grammar: Syntactic theory in typological perspective</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Goldberg, Adele. 1995. <i>Constructions: A Construction Grammar Approach to Argument Structure</i>. Chicago: Chicago University Press.</p> <p>Goldberg, Adele. 2006. <i>Constructions at Work: The Nature of Generalization in Language</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Traugott, Elizabeth and Graeme Trousdale. 2013. <i>Constructionalization and Constructional Changes</i>. Oxford University Press</p> <p>Systemic Functional Linguistics:</p> <p>Bartlett, Tom & Gerard O’Grady (eds.). 2017. <i>The Routledge handbook of systemic functional linguistics</i>. Milton Park: Routledge.</p> <p>Halliday, M.A.K. & Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen. 2006. <i>Construing experience through meaning: a language-based approach to cognition</i>. London & New York: Continuum.</p> <p>Halliday, M.A.K. & Christian M.I.M Matthiessen. 2014. <i>Halliday’s introduction to functional grammar</i>. Fourth Edition. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Halliday, M.A.K. & Jonathan Webster (eds.). 2009. <i>Continuum companion to systemic functional linguistics</i>. London & New York: Continuum.</p> <p>Hasan, Ruqaiya, Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen & Jonathan Webster (eds.), <i>Continuing Discourse on Language: A Functional Perspective</i>, Volume 1 (2005) and Volume 2 (2007). London: Equinox Publishing.</p> <p>Matthiessen, Christian M.I.M., Kazuhiro Teruya & Marvin Lam. 2010. <i>Key terms in systemic functional linguistics</i>. London & New York: Continuum.</p> <p>Thompson, Geoff, Wendy L. Bowcher, Lise Fontaine & David Schöntal (eds.). 2019. <i>The Cambridge Handbook of Systemic Functional Linguistics</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Transformational/Generative grammar:</p> <p>Adger, David. (2003). <i>Core Syntax. A minimalist approach</i>. OUP.</p> |
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| | <p>Baker, C. L. (1978) <i>Introduction to Generative-Transformational Syntax</i>. Prentice-Hall.</p> <p>Chomsky, Noam & James McGilvray (2012) <i>The Science of Language, Interviews with James McGilvray</i>. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Cook Vivian J. and Mark Newson (2007). <i>Chomsky's Universal Grammar: An Introduction</i>. Wiley-Blackwell. 3rd edition.</p> <p>Haegeman, Liliane. (1994). <i>Introduction to Government and Binding Theory</i>. Wiley-Blackwell.</p> <p>Ludlow, Peter. (2011). <i>The Philosophy of Generative Linguistics</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Lyons, John. (1968). <i>Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics</i>. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Newmeyer, Federick. (1986). <i>Linguistic Theory in America: First Quarter Century of Transformational Generative Grammar</i>. Emerald. 2nd edition.</p> <p>Newmeyer, Frederick. (1988). <i>The Politics of Linguistics</i>. University of Chicago Press.</p> <p>Newmeyer, Frederick. (1997). <i>Generative Linguistics: An Historical Perspective</i>. Routledge. New Edition.</p> <p>Pinker, Steven. (2007). <i>The Language Instinct</i>. Harper. 3rd edition.</p> <p>Seuren, Pieter A. M. (2004). <i>Chomsky's Minimalism</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Smith, Neil. (2004). <i>Chomsky: Ideas and Ideals</i>. Cambridge University Press. 2nd edition.</p> <p>Nontransformational/Constraint-based syntax:</p> <p>Börjars, Kersti, Rachel Nordlinger, and Louisa Sadler. <i>Lexical-functional grammar: An introduction</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2019.</p> <p>Bresnan, Joan, Ash Asudeh, Ida Toivonen, and Stephen Wechsler. 2016. <i>Lexical-Functional Syntax</i>. 2nd edition. Wiley-Blackwell.</p> <p>Mary Dalrymple, John J. Lowe & Louise Mycock. 2019. <i>The Oxford reference guide to Lexical Functional Grammar</i>. OUP.</p> <p>Culicover, Peter W. and Ray Jackendoff. 2005. <i>Simpler Syntax</i>. OUP.</p> <p>Dalrymple, Mary. 2001. <i>Lexical Functional Grammar</i>. Academic</p> |
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| | <p>Press.</p> <p>Müller, Stefan (2018). <i>Grammatical Theory: From Transformational Grammar to Constraint-Based Approaches</i>, second edition. Language Science Press. http://langsci-press.org/catalog/book/195.</p> <p>Sag, Ivan, Wasow, Thomas and Bender, Emily. 2003. <i>Syntactic Theory: A Formal Introduction</i>. 2nd edition. CSLI.</p> <p>Steedman, Mark. 2001. <i>The Syntactic Process</i>. MIT Press.</p> <p>Pragmatics:</p> <p>Allan, Keith. and Kasia M. Jaszczolt (eds.) (2012). <i>The Cambridge Handbook of Pragmatics</i>. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Chapman, Siobhan. (2000) <i>Philosophy for Linguists: An Introduction</i>. Routledge. [complements Seuren]</p> <p>Chapman, Siobhan. (2005) <i>Paul Grice: Philosopher and Linguist</i>. Palgrave MacMillan.</p> <p>Chapman, Siobhan. (2008) <i>Language and Empiricism - After the Vienna Circle</i>. Palgrave MacMillan. [good on ordinary language philosophy]</p> <p>Cosenza, Giovanna. (ed.) (2001). <i>Paul Grice's Heritage</i>. Brepols.</p> <p>Franken, Dirk, Attila Karakus & Jan G. Michel (eds.) (2012). <i>John R. Searle: Thinking About the Real World</i>. Ontos Verlag.</p> <p>Gustafsson, Martin. and Richard Sørli (eds.) (2012) <i>The Philosophy of J. L. Austin</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Huang, Yan. 2014. <i>Pragmatics</i>. OUP.</p> <p>Levinson, Stephen C. 1983. <i>Pragmatics</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Petrus, Klaus. (ed.) (2010). <i>Meaning and Analysis: New Essays on Grice</i>. Palgrave Macmillan.</p> <p>Semantics, formal (model theoretic; logic):</p> <p>Altshuler, D., Parsons, T., & Schwarzschild, R. (2019). <i>A course in semantics</i>. MIT Press.</p> <p>Bach, Emmon W. 1989. <i>Informal lectures on formal semantics</i>. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.</p> |
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| | <p>Feferman, Anita Burdman & Solomon Feferman (2008) <i>Alfred Tarski: Life and Logic</i>. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Kamp, H. and U. Reyle. 1993. <i>From Discourse to Logic</i>. Kluwer.</p> <p>Partee, Barbara H. 2005. Reflections of a formal semanticist as of Feb 2005.</p> <p>Paul Portner & Barbara H. Partee (eds.). 2002. <i>Formal semantics: the essential readings</i>. Oxford: Blackwell.</p> <p>Natural language philosophy:</p> <p>[See also under Pragmatics, Formal Semantics]</p> <p>Lepore, Ernest & Barry C. Smith (eds.). 2006. <i>The Oxford handbook of philosophy of language</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Morris, Michael. 2007. <i>An introduction to the philosophy of language</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.</p> |
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