LING111

Language: Its Structure and Use

S2 Day 2014

Linguistics

Contents

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General Information

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Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit examines how languages are structured and how people use language. Aspects of linguistic theory covered include study of sounds and sound systems (phonetics and phonology), the structure of words (morphology), and sentence patterns (syntax). Linguistic theory is presented with a focus on English, but students analyse data from a range of the world's languages. Other areas of linguistic study that are introduced include language in the brain, psycholinguistics and child language acquisition.
Language use in everyday conversation is examined, along with issues such as language change, standardisation of language, concepts of linguistic 'correctness', and how different groups use language to express social and cultural identity. This includes discussion of the talk of women and men, people of different ages and ethnic backgrounds within Australia and elsewhere. Another topic discussed is the way in which social networking, tweeting and texting are bringing about language innovation. The unit provides a thorough grounding for students wishing to further their knowledge of linguistics in higher-level units.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Acquire a basic knowledge of several significant linguistic theories

Demonstrate understanding of core areas of linguistics: syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics

Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues

Identify relationships between language and social life.

Recognise the role of experimental design in linguistics by participating in a departmental research project

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Research participation	5%	Throughout Session 2

Name	Weighting	Due
Short essay	10%	Wednesday August 27 at 5pm
Morphology assignment	10%	Week 6
Phonemics transcription	10%	Wednesday October 8
Mini research report	30%	Wednesday October 29
Examinatiom	35%	During the formal exam period

Research participation

Due: **Throughout Session 2**
Weighting: **5%**

Students will have the chance to be participants in research being carried out by Linguistics staff and higher degree candidates, receiving 5% raw marks for that participation. There will be various research projects to choose from; these will be advertised on iLearn during the semester. For students who do not wish to participate in this research, there will be a short alternative task set at the end of semester.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Recognise the role of experimental design in linguistics by participating in a departmental research project

Short essay

Due: **Wednesday August 27 at 5pm**
Weighting: **10%**

This essay task functions as a diagnostic tool to be able to advise students who are at academic risk as to the various support systems available on campus. It will be marked both on content and on academic writing skills, including the ability to correctly reference sources used.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Acquire a basic knowledge of several significant linguistic theories
- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues

Morphology assignment

Due: **Week 6**
Weighting: **10%**

This assignment will be an online quizz with a time limit set both in terms of days when it can be

accessed and the time allowed for completion.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate understanding of core areas of linguistics: syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics
- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Phonemics transcription

Due: **Wednesday October 8**
Weighting: **10%**

This task will involve transcription of a short series of sound files.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate understanding of core areas of linguistics: syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics
- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Mini research report

Due: **Wednesday October 29**
Weighting: **30%**

For this task students will be asked to collect some real language data, analyse it in terms of a set topic and write a report on their findings.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Acquire a basic knowledge of several significant linguistic theories
- Demonstrate understanding of core areas of linguistics: syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics
- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues
- Identify relationships between language and social life.
- Recognise the role of experimental design in linguistics by participating in a departmental research project

Examinatiom

Due: **During the formal exam period**
Weighting: **35%**

This task is a formal examination held during the University's exam period. It will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions, all based on content from the set textbook, lectures and tutorials.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Acquire a basic knowledge of several significant linguistic theories
- Demonstrate understanding of core areas of linguistics: syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics
- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Identify relationships between language and social life.

Delivery and Resources

The learning and teaching strategies used in this Unit include face-to-face lectures taught by a number of different staff members from linguistics.

There is a set textbook: *An introduction to Language,* Australia and New Zealand 7th Edition, 2012, by Fromkin, Rodman, Hyams, Collins, Amberber, Cox

Lecture notes, assessment task instructions and other relevant materials are uploaded to the unit iLearn site, and the lectures are recorded, which makes lectures available to students who are unable to attend classes, although attendence at lectures will be an advantage.

Students are expected to attend or listen to all of the lectures in order and as they are delivered. In addition, they are advised to use the recordings to review or revise lectures, especially as the exams draw near. Note that in this unit, much of the lecture material and related learning experience is **accumulative**, meaning that within the various topic areas one lecture will usually provide necessary knowledge for the next one, as well as for the following week's tutorial. In addition, the tutorial material is designed for students to practice progressively what has been covered in lectures in the previous week or weeks, so students who do not keep up to date with the lecture material will find themselves at a serious disadvantage in tutorials during the semester.

Students must attend one tutorial a week; 80% attendance at tutorials is a requirement of

the unit.

Each week students are expected to study the lecture notes, and come to their tutorial class having read the relevant section in the textbook and having attempted the tutorial preparation as set out each week in the tutorial worksheets posted online. Tutors will check each week that students have at least made a serious attempt at the tutorial preparation as set out in the worksheets. Satisfactory preparation is an essential part of proving your 80% attendance at tutorials.

Unit Schedule

The schedule of lectures and tutorial topics will be posted on iLearn by the beginning of semester.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues
- Identify relationships between language and social life.

Assessment task

- Mini research report

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Recognise the role of experimental design in linguistics by participating in a departmental research project

Assessment task

- Research participation

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Acquire a basic knowledge of several significant linguistic theories
- Demonstrate understanding of core areas of linguistics: syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics
- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues
- Identify relationships between language and social life.
- Recognise the role of experimental design in linguistics by participating in a departmental

research project

Assessment tasks

- Research participation
- Short essay
- Morphology assignment
- Phonemics transcription
- Examinatiom

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate understanding of core areas of linguistics: syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics
- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues
- Identify relationships between language and social life.

Assessment tasks

- Short essay
- Morphology assignment
- Phonemics transcription
- Mini research report
- Examinatiom

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative

in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues
- Identify relationships between language and social life.

Assessment tasks

- Morphology assignment
- Mini research report

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues
- Identify relationships between language and social life.

Assessment tasks

- Morphology assignment
- Mini research report

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate understanding of core areas of linguistics: syntax, phonetics/phonology, morphology, semantics, sociolinguistics
- Analyse structural units of language relevant to the various levels of linguistic organisation. These analyses will include tasks in phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues
- Identify relationships between language and social life.

Assessment tasks

- Short essay
- Morphology assignment
- Mini research report
- Examinatiom

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify, collect, describe and examine language data to engage with theoretical linguistic issues
- Identify relationships between language and social life.
- Recognise the role of experimental design in linguistics by participating in a departmental research project

Assessment task

- Research participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and

country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify relationships between language and social life.
- Recognise the role of experimental design in linguistics by participating in a departmental research project

Assessment task

- Research participation

Changes from Previous Offering

There has been a slight change to the order of lectures from 2013 to 2104. The only significant change is to the assessment schedule, with the tutorial sheets no longer being part of the assessment, and adjustments made accordingly to two other assessment tasks: The short diagnostic essay is now weighted at 10% (5 % in 2013) and the Mini research report is now 30% (25% in 2013).

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
28/02/2014	The Description was updated.