LING218

Grammar and Meaning

S1 Day 2017

Dept of Linguistics

Contents

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Annabelle Lukin
annabelle.lukin@mq.edu.au
Contact via annabelle.lukin@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
3cp from LING units at 100 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
Grammar is the powerhouse of language. The grammar of language emerges over time, as people use language for the varied processes of living. This course will introduce you to the relationship of grammar and meaning, through understanding the three functions of language:- textual function: how we organise our language into coherent text in the many different contexts in which we interact- interpersonal function: how we enact our social relationships through language- ideational function: how we use language to construe our experience of the world around us, and the world inside us.The analysis you will learn about in this unit is used in many different fields of study, including computational linguistics, translation, literary studies, child language development, political and media discourse, the language of health professionals, the language of education, etc. This is a course for people who love language, or who understand that language is important to all aspects of human life.

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:

Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function

Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational,

interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use

Demonstrate understanding of the ideational function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in ideational meaning in real instances of language use

Demonstrate understanding of the interpersonal function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in interpersonal meaning in real instances of language use

Demonstrate understanding of the textual function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in textual meaning in real instances of language use

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assignment 1	10%	No	12 midnight Friday 17/3/17
Assignment 2	20%	No	12 midnight Friday 21/4/17
Assignment 3	30%	No	12 midnight Monday 29/5/2017
Final exam	40%	No	Exam period

Assignment 1

Due: **12 midnight Friday 17/3/17**
Weighting: **10%**

In this assignment we are assessing your ability to identify grammatical units in a short stretch of text and to relate a text to its social context.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function
- Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational, interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use

Assignment 2

Due: **12 midnight Friday 21/4/17**
Weighting: **20%**

In this assignment, you will extend the analysis in Assignment 1. The text will be slightly longer, and you will add in the analysis of the constituent elements of the text, and their experiential functions.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function
- Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational, interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the ideational function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in ideational meaning in real instances of language use

Assignment 3

Due: **12 midnight Monday 29/5/2017**
Weighting: **30%**

In this assignment you will continue with the same short text from assignment 2, but extend the analysis to include the interpersonal and textual metafunctions. You will write an essay based on your analysis, interpreting the linguistics patterns and relating them to the social function of the text (max 1000 words).

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function
- Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational, interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the ideational function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in ideational meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the interpersonal function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in interpersonal meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the textual function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in textual meaning in real instances of language use

Final exam

Due: **Exam period**
Weighting: **40%**

The final exam will be conducted during the examinations period. The exam will be open book.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function
- Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational, interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the ideational function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in ideational meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the interpersonal function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in interpersonal meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the textual function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in textual meaning in real instances of language use

Delivery and Resources

The course has a two hour lecture, plus a one hour tutorial. The iLearn website contains self-paced online learning activities. There is also a glossary of terms on the iLearn site.

NOTE ON LECTURES:

Although the lectures will be recorded via the ECHO360 system, my lectures are interactive. I like students to engage in discussion and activities around the concepts being introduced. Please consider this when deciding whether to attend lectures or listen via ECHO360.

My iLearn website also has 'mini-lectures' – short, prerecorded lectures on key concepts from the course, designed for students unable to attend some lectures.

You can choose between the two following books. The first is more detailed and comprehensive; but the second is easier to read.

Halliday, M. A. K., & Matthiessen, C. M. I. M. (2014). An Introduction to Halliday's Functional Grammar: Fourth Edition (3rd ed.). London: Arnold.

Butt, D, Fahey, R, Feez, S, Spinks, S. 2012. Using Functional Grammar: An Explorer's Guide. Macmillan Australia.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture topics	Readings: Either IFG or UFG
1	**What is language? What is grammar?** We begin this unit by exploring some ideas about the nature of language including how it is that we come to be users of language. We explore the functions of language, and how language relates meaning to context. We began looking at how grammar makes meaning, by looking at what verbs do. Verbs are at the centre of the most important grammatical unit, the clause. The verb is a structure that allows us to represent and construe process, flux and change. So, it's time to move beyond the 'verb is a doing word' definition, to explore the power and beauty of the grammar of verbs. Also, see my column here for a bit of background on the way grammar is explored in this unit.	Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar (IFG): Chapter 1 Using Functional Grammar (UFG): Chapter 1&2 Halliday, M.A.K. 1985. Language, Context and Text: Aspects of Language in a Social Semiotic, Chapter 1.
2	**Constituency 1: units in grammar** In week 1, we looked at the forms and functions of a key piece of structure in grammar, the 'verbal group'. This week we extend our picture by looking at the other important units in grammar. As we know, language can be viewed from different points of view. The units that we study depend on how we are looking at language. If we are looking at sound or writing patterns, then we identify units relevant to those aspects of language. These units are different from units in grammar, or semantics. We will look at the grammatical units of clause, group and phrase, word, and morpheme. To understand what we can 'see' in language structure we have to understand what motivates it, and relate it to the motif of 'choice'.	IFG: Chapter 2 UFG: Chapter 1&2

3	**Constituency 2: units in grammar** In this second week on constituency, we continue our examination of the grammatical units of clause, group and phrase, word, and morpheme. We will talk about grammatical words and content words, and examine the relation between formal and functional ways of understanding grammatical organization in language. We will apply this analysis to a series of everyday short texts.	IFG: Chapter 2 UFG: Chapter 1&2
4	**What is a clause?** To use language in the many and varied ways we interact, we need to put words into structures. The most important grammatical unit is the clause, because it is through the clause we create 'experiential', 'interpersonal' and 'textual meanings'. In this lecture, we will build on the two previous weeks by looking at whole clauses, and different types of clauses. We will even see clauses inside (i.e. 'embedded in') other clauses.	IFG: Chapter 2 (section 2.7) UFG: Chapter 3
5	**Clause as representation: language construing experience 1** Humans use language for meaning making of three kinds. This week we begin exploring how grammar allows us to make sense of experience, to turn experience into meaning that we can share with our nearest and dearest, or complete strangers. We will come back to the verbal group, and look at different kinds of verbs/processes, and how we use grammar to construe action, saying and thinking, and relations of identity and similarity.	IFG: Chapter 5 UFG: Chapter 4
6	**Clause as representation: language construing experience 2** PART 2	IFG: Chapter 5 UFG: Chapter 4

7	**Clause as exchange: language enacting social relationships 1**	IFG: Chapter 4
	Humans don't produce linguistic structure as an end in itself. We don't just talk, we talk to someone, even when that someone is someone we don't know or can never know. There is always an audience for our talk. There are many dimensions to our social relations. For instance, how do you talk to people who have some kind of power over you? How does your talk reflect a relation of familiarity or intimacy? When you talk to very young kids, or to elderly people, how does your language vary? These kinds of distinctions are reflected and made through linguistic choices. This week we begin looking at the grammar that enables us to enact our social relations.	UFG: Chapter 5&6
8	**Clause as exchange: language enacting social relationships 2**	IFG: Chapter 4
	PART 2	UFG: Chapter 5&6
9	**Clause as message: language for creating coherent text 1**	IFG: Chapter 3
	Language allows us to make meanings of two kinds simultaneously: meanings about the world, and meanings about the social relations that pertain to a given situation. How do we make all this hang together? The textual function is the grammar for creating coherent texts. This week we look into the options in grammar for the order of elements in a clause, and how this order has consequences for text structure and coherence.	UFG: Chapter 6
10	**Clause as message: language for creating coherent text 2**	IFG: Chapter 3
	PART 2	UFG: Chapter 6

11	**Building up text** Sometimes our interactions are very short. Often they are not. Humans in all kinds of situations create extended texts. They do this by joining clauses together into long stretches of clauses. In this lecture, we look at the grammatical systems which underpin our ways of joining clauses together.	UFG: Chapter 7
12	**Language in context: spoken and written language** Language varies according to context. One key dimension of variation is the mode of contact e.g. whether we are communicating face-to-face, or via a written mode. If written, we could be writing a formal letter or texting a friend. The grammatical patterns in a text change, depending on the mode of contact. This week we will review the concepts and terminology introduced in this course, through looking at the grammatical differences between speaking and writing.	*Halliday, MAK. 1985. Spoken and Written Language. Geelong: Deakin University Press. (e-Reserve)*
13	**Grammar and meaning: summary and revision** In this final week, we review the content of this unit, and explore its applications. I also give examples of typical exam questions and discussion preparation for the open book exam in the examination period.	

Learning and Teaching Activities

Face to face lectures

Ling218 has a weekly 2 hour face to face lecture. This time combines presentation of concepts, and working through the application of these concepts to real discourse in its social context. We examine a wide variety of discourse, including from the domains of education, politics and media, advertising and literature.

Online lectures

Short online video lectures are available. These are designed for those unable to attend the face to face lectures, or who wish to revised the lecture content.

Tutorials

From week 2, there is a one hour tutorial. Attendance at these tutorials is monitored, but is not assessed. You are expected to work on the tutorial activities prior to the tutorial. The tutorial is not a lecture by the tutor, and does not stand if for the lecture.

Online activities

The iLearn site provides online, self-paced activities which review key concepts of the course.

Assessment activities

Assessment activities are designed to enable students to apply the concepts of the course to real-life examples of language in social context.

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_2016.html

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

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/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

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

dents.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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources 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:

Assessment task

- Assignment 3

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

- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1
- Final exam

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

- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function
- Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational, interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the ideational function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in ideational meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the interpersonal function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in interpersonal meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the textual function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in textual meaning in real instances of language use

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3
- Final exam

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 the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function
- Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational, interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the ideational function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in ideational meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the interpersonal function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in interpersonal meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the textual function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in textual meaning in real instances of language use

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3
- Final exam

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

- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function
- Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational,

interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use

- Demonstrate understanding of the ideational function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in ideational meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the interpersonal function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in interpersonal meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the textual function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in textual meaning in real instances of language use

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 2
- Assignment 3
- Final exam

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 the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function
- Demonstrate understanding of the functional constituents in grammar - ideational, interpersonal and textual - by analysing grammatical categories in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the ideational function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in ideational meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the interpersonal function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in interpersonal meaning in real instances of language use
- Demonstrate understanding of the textual function of language by describing and interpreting patterns in textual meaning in real instances of language use

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2

- Assignment 3

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 outcome

- Demonstrate understanding of the relationship between meaning and social context by analysing real instances of language use and describing their social function

Assessment task

- Assignment 3

Changes from Previous Offering

Following feedback from last year's students, and with approval from the Faculty Standards and Quality Committee, I have reduced the value of the final assignment, from 50% to 30%. The 20% difference has been distributed across two other assessment tasks: the second assignment is now worth 20%, and the exam is now worth 40%. In addition, the content load of the unit has been reduced.