

# LT2232: ENGLISH LINGUISTICS – COMMUNICATIVE FUNCTIONS OF GRAMMAR

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## Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

English Linguistics – Communicative Functions of Grammar

### Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

### Course Number

2232

### Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Nil

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

According to the famous linguist, T. Givón (1993), grammar is not a set of rigid rules that must be followed in order to produce grammatical sentences. Grammar, instead, is a set of strategies that a speaker employs in order to produce coherent communication. If grammar is for communication, then some important questions follow, which constitute the themes of this course and will be answered one by one:

- How can a grammar be used for communication?
- Why do different languages have different “rules” ?
- What are the grammatical rules in English meant to communicate?
- Why are they the way they are?

To fulfil communicative purposes, a grammar must provide ‘means’ for speakers to communicate whatever they want to communicate. Then the task of teaching grammar is not just about “what” , but also involves “why” , since what is in the grammar (the rules) is motivated by what needs to be communicated (the functions). The course proposes a fundamental challenge to the traditional grammar teaching method in exploring the mapping relations between form and function. Each language has a unique way of associating form and meaning, just as different people have different personalities. The course is meant to capture English grammar by understanding its unique “personality” in terms of form-function mapping strategies.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Exercise critical thinking, organizational capability and oral skills.	25		x	x
2	Apply the learned analytical theoretical constructs to addressing 1-3 puzzling issues in English grammar.	25	x	x	x
3	Explain the functional mechanisms in English grammar and demonstrate a clear understanding of the grammatical system of English.	25	x	x	x
4	Apply the knowledge and the ability learned in class to the analysis of an English-Chinese bilingual text ( “Making Sense of English” - the MSE Project).	25	x	x	x

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Reading	Students will critically engage with weekly reading tasks to enhance and consolidate learning	1, 2, 3	2-4 hours per week

2	Individual and group production	Students will discuss the discussion question posted for the week and produce a short essay for group work and presentation	1, 2, 3	1-2 hours/sem
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**Additional Information for LTAs**

Weekly reading and discussion questions will be posted ahead of time for preview and group activities.

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)	
1	In-class participation, discussion and activities	1, 2, 3	20	
2	Weekly production and presentation: creative production in weekly assignment, quiz and discussion	1, 2, 3	20	
3	Midterm assignment and presentation: students will engage in group activities to provide Q&As for understanding English grammar	1, 2, 3	20	
4	“Making Sense of English” (MSE) Project: students will apply what is learned in class to a hands-on project on analysing an English-Chinese bilingual text	1, 2, 3, 4	20	

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

80

**Examination (%)**

20

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

In-class participation, discussion and activities (20%)

**Criterion**

Active participation in the in-class discussion and activities

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent ability in demonstrating the said criteria

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good ability in demonstrating the said criteria

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Satisfactory ability in demonstrating the said criteria

**Marginal (D)**

Barely adequate evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

**Failure (F)**

Little or no evidence of the said ability

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**Assessment Task**

Weekly production and presentation (20%)

**Criterion**

Clear, interesting, and well-organized oral presentation

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent ability in demonstrating the said criteria

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good ability in demonstrating the said criteria

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Satisfactory ability in demonstrating the said criteria

**Marginal (D)**

Barely adequate evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

**Failure (F)**

Little or no evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

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**Assessment Task**

Midterm assignment and presentation (20%)

**Criterion**

Clear, interesting and well-delivered arguments for the chosen approach

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent ability in demonstrative the said criteria

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good ability in demonstrating the said criteria

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Satisfactory ability in demonstrating the said criteria

**Marginal (D)**

Barely adequate evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

**Failure (F)**

Little or no evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

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### **Assessment Task**

MSE Project (20%)

#### **Criterion**

Clear, interesting and well-argued analysis of a set of chosen data with an abstract for conference presentation

#### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent ability in demonstrating the said criteria

#### **Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good ability in demonstrating the said criteria

#### **Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Satisfactory ability in demonstrating the said criteria

#### **Marginal (D)**

Barely adequate evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

#### **Failure (F)**

Little or no evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

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### **Assessment Task**

Final exam (20%)

#### **Criterion**

Demonstration of command of the subject matter taught in the course; Clarity, accuracy, and fluency in writing

#### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent ability in demonstrating the said criteria

#### **Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good ability in demonstrating the said criteria

#### **Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Satisfactory ability in demonstrating the said criteria

#### **Marginal (D)**

Barely adequate evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

#### **Failure (F)**

Little or no evidence in demonstrating the said criteria

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## **Part III Other Information**

### **Keyword Syllabus**

Topics to be covered in class discussion include:

Grammar and Communication

The Unique Personality of English

Subject vs. Object

Types of Verbs and Types of Complements

Main vs. Subordinate

Count vs. Mass Nouns

Reference and Definiteness  
 Tense, Aspect, and Modality  
 Active vs. Passive voice  
 Polysemy of Prepositions  
 Rules and Exceptions

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Givón, T. (1993). English grammar: A function-based approach. #Amsterdam: Benjamins. <a href="https://books.google.com.hk/books?id=TWZM1bFFMSkC&amp;printsec=frontcover&amp;dq=Givon+English+grammar&amp;hl=zh-TW&amp;sa=X&amp;ved=2ahUKewjg9O-x4NbsAhWDIqYKHQ6ABMwQ6AEwAHoECAIQAg#v=onepage&amp;q=Givon%20English%20grammar&amp;f=false">https://books.google.com.hk/books?id=TWZM1bFFMSkC&amp;printsec=frontcover&amp;dq=Givon+English+grammar&amp;hl=zh-TW&amp;sa=X&amp;ved=2ahUKewjg9O-x4NbsAhWDIqYKHQ6ABMwQ6AEwAHoECAIQAg#v=onepage&amp;q=Givon%20English%20grammar&amp;f=false</a>
2	劉美君 (2012) 《英文文法有道理》著。臺灣：聯經出版。 <a href="https://www.books.com.tw/products/0010557304">https://www.books.com.tw/products/0010557304</a>

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil