

LT5409: SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Systemic Functional Linguistics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5409

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5409 Systemic Functional Linguistics

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to:

- a. Emphasize that function and semantics are the basis of human language and communicative activity
- b. Study language as a system operating in and being influenced by social context;
- c. Enable students to generate innovative linguistic analysis using concepts developed in systemic functional linguistics.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 app.)		DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Relate systemic functional methods to the interpretation of meaning and		x	x	x
2	Analyze texts, spoken and written.		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	1	Lectures: Essential concepts and issues in Systemic Functional Linguistics; Tutorials: non-essential issues in this field and exercises.	1, 2	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Exercises and coursework: applying theoretical concepts to the analysis of texts and discourse - In-class test (20%) - Group work and presentation involving analysis of a text to be provided (20%) - Individual commentary on analyses of a text to be provided (20%)	1, 2	60	
2	Essay discussing the application of SFL Theory	1, 2	40	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

1 (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Exercises and coursework

- In-class test
- Group work and presentation
- Individual commentary

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to distinguish text genres and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good ability to distinguish the genres of a text and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Some ability to distinguish the genres of a text and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Marginal

(D) Barely able to distinguish the genres of a text and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Failure

(F) No apparent ability to distinguish the genres of a text and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Assessment Task

2 (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Essay

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent competence in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Above average competence in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Some competence in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Marginal

(D) Barely competent in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Failure

(F) No apparent competence in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Assessment Task

3 (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Exercises and coursework

- In-class test
- Group work and presentation
- Individual commentary

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent ability to distinguish text genres and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Good

(B+, B) Good ability to distinguish the genres of a text and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Some ability to distinguish the genres of a text and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Failure

(F) No apparent ability to distinguish the genres of a text and to recognize and describe those linguistic factors contributing to the texture and architecture of texts.

Assessment Task

4 (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Essay

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent competence in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Good

(B+, B) Above average competence in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Some competence in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Failure

(F) No apparent competence in the fundamental theoretical concepts in Systemic Functional Linguistics as the basis for articulating critical and original thinking.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Preliminaries: Metafunctions, ideational, interpersonal

Groups/Phrases: Experiential structure and logical structure, Nominal, Verbal, Adverbial, Conjunction & Preposition group

Clauses: as Message, as Exchange, as Representation Complex Groups/Phrases and Complex Clauses: Parataxis and Hypotaxis, Elaboration, Extension, Enhancement, Reports, Ideas and Facts

Syllabus (in detail)

Systemic semantics: Textual metafunction (type/token ratios, vocabulary use, register); interpersonal metafunction (speech-function, exchange structure, involvement and detachment, personal reference, discourse markers); ideational/experiential metafunction (propositional content, modality)

Systemic context or register analysis: Field (what is happening, what is it that the participants are engaged in [the nature of the social interaction taking place]); Tenor (who is taking part, the social roles and relationships of participant, the status and roles of the participants); Mode (the symbolic organization of the text, persuasive/expository/didactic rhetorical modes, the spoken/written or monologic/dialogic channel of communication)

Systemic text or discourse analysis: Tokens (individual words); types (kinds of words); lexical density (ratio of lexical and grammatical items); contrast between lexical density of written text and syntactic density of oral discourse

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Webster, Jonathan J. (Ed.) (2009). <i>The Essential Halliday</i> . London: Continuum. Halliday, M.A.K. and Webster, J. J. (Eds.) (2009). <i>Continuum Companion to Systemic Functional Linguistics</i> . London: Continuum Books.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	The Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday (11 volumes). Webster, J.J. (Editor). Bloomsbury.