

LT5416: HISTORICAL LINGUISTICS

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Historical Linguistics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5416

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

LT5401 Phonetics and Phonology, LT5402 Syntax and Morphology

Equivalent Courses

CTL5416 Historical Linguistics

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course introduces grammaticalization, one of the important approaches to historical linguistics, to graduate students. Students will be able to identify language change in lexicon, morphology and syntax. The similarities and differences

between grammaticalization and lexicalization will be discussed. The theories of constructionalization and diachronic construction grammar will also be introduced. Chinese data will be examined or re-examined under the frameworks of grammaticalization lexicalization and constructionalization.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the areas of language change as well as the techniques used for uncovering changes that occurred long ago by - evaluating semantic changes and changes in the lexicon, - discovering changes that occur in the morphological system of a language, - analyzing examples of syntactic changes;		x	x	x
2	Demonstrate a good knowledge of basic concepts in the theory of grammaticalization and lexicalization by - understanding how lexical items become part of the grammar, - exploring how grammatical forms further develop;		x	x	x
3	Demonstrate a good knowledge of basic concepts in the theory of constructionalization by - familiarizing with the theory of construction grammar - understanding the constructional approach to constructionalization		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	Lecture: Theoretical foundations of all learning outcomes are laid in the lecture. Basic ideas are taught during two hours per week	1, 2, 3	2 hours

2	2	Tutorial: Exercises presented in tutorials will familiarize the students with the theoretical concepts of the lecture	1, 2, 3	1 hour
3	3	Individual Reading: Students will read lecture and tutorial notes and additional literature proposed by the lecturer	1, 2, 3	
4	4	Assignment: During assignments, students will analyze and synthesize linguistic data helping them apply the notions of the lecture	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Students discussion students work in groups to solve grammaticalization problems	1	20	
2	Assignment (grammaticalization & lexicalization): report the grammaticalization/lexicalization process of a particular change	2	30	
3	Final paper (constructionalization): write a paper applying the constructionalization theory	3	50	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of how languages change and ability to apply techniques for uncovering changes that occurred at various linguistic levels.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of major issues in language change and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good knowledge of major issues in language change and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate knowledge of major issues in language change and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Marginal

(D) Marginal familiarity with the subject matter and fair analysis of linguistic data.

Failure

(F) Poor familiarity with the subject matter and poor analysis of linguistic data.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Demonstrate grasp of basic concepts in the theory of grammaticalization and lexicalization.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of major issues in grammaticalization and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good knowledge of major issues in grammaticalization and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate knowledge of major issues in grammaticalization and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Marginal

(D) Marginal familiarity with the subject matter and fair analysis of linguistic data.

Failure

(F) Poor familiarity with the subject matter and poor analysis of linguistic data.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Demonstrate competence in applying the theory of constructionalization.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent competence in applying the theory of constructionalization

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good competence in applying the theory of constructionalization

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate competence in applying the theory of constructionalization

Marginal

(D) Marginal familiarity with the subject matter and fair analysis of linguistic data.

Failure

(F) Poor familiarity with the subject matter and poor analysis of linguistic data.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of how languages change and ability to apply techniques for uncovering changes that occurred at various linguistic levels.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of major issues in language change and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Good

(B+, B) Good knowledge of major issues in language change and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate knowledge of major issues or marginal familiarity with the subject matter and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Failure

(F) Poor familiarity with the subject matter and poor analysis of linguistic data.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Demonstrate grasp of basic concepts in the theory of grammaticalization and lexicalization.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent knowledge of major issues in grammaticalization and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Good

(B+, B) Good knowledge of major issues in grammaticalization and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate knowledge or marginal familiarity with the subject matter and application of the knowledge to data analysis.

Failure

(F) Poor familiarity with the subject matter and poor analysis of linguistic data.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Demonstrate competence in applying the theory of constructionalization.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent competence in applying the theory of constructionalization

Good

(B+, B) Good competence in applying the theory of constructionalization

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate competence or marginal familiarity with the subject matter in applying the theory of constructionalization

Failure

(F) Poor familiarity with the subject matter and poor analysis of linguistic data.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Theory of grammaticalization and lexicalization: Reanalysis, analogy, hypothesis of unidirectionality, the context and effects of grammaticalization, the role of frequency Constructionalization: Construction Grammar, constructional network, constructional context, the difference between constructionalization and grammaticalization

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Hopper, Paul. J. and Elizabeth Closs Traugott. 2003. Grammaticalization (revised edn.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2	Traugott, Elizabeth Closs and Trousdale Graeme. 2013. Constructionalization and Constructional Changes. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Brinton, Laurel and Elisabeth Closs Traugott. 2005. Lexicalization and Language Change. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2	Heine, Bernd and Tania Kuteva. 2007. The Genesis of Grammar: A Reconstruction. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3	Bybee, Joan L. 2007. Frequency of Use and the Organization of Language. New York: Oxford University Press.