

LT5903: LANGUAGE AND ITS APPLICATIONS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Language and its Applications

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5903

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

CTL5901 Language, Cognition and Culture/ LT5901 Language, Cognition and Culture

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course introduces the basic properties of natural language and how they are related to other aspects of human cognition. In order to provide a broad understanding of human languages, this course covers major subfields in Linguistics, including

phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, computational linguistics and applied linguistics. Upon completion of the course, students would be able to identify and analyse the human language in general, which is the essential defining characteristic of human beings. Students would also be able to describe and theorize how language bears on practical aspects of life such as language technology and language pedagogy.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Discover the basic properties of natural language and how they are related to other aspects of human cognition.		x	x	x
2	Describe and analyse the phonetic, phonological, syntactic and semantic properties of natural language.		x	x	x
3	Analyse natural language data; identify and explain patterns in language and language use.		x	x	x
4	Discover and explain language application in the practical aspects of life		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 read academic books and articles	1, 2, 3, 4	3 hours
2	Pre-recorded lecture	Students will watch pre-recorded lectures covering basic concepts and theories, including explanation and illustration of how to systematically analyze linguistic data.	1, 2, 3, 4	3 hours

3	Face-to-face class activities	Students will participate in class exercises that apply concepts to data analysis and practice elaborating on these concepts and theories in problem solving activities	1, 2, 3, 4	3 hours
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	In-class group assignments	1, 2, 3	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes

2	One research paper on topics related to language and its applications (length: 2,000 words)	1, 4	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
3	End-of-term test	1, 2, 3, 4	40	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

In-class group assignments (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of the nature of natural languages and basic concepts of linguistics and how they can be used in analysing our language.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of basic concepts of linguistics; and evidence of excellent understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate good evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; grasp of basic concepts of linguistics, and evidence of good understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate some evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study; adequate understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate limited evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study; adequate understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Assessment Task

One research paper on topics related to language and its applications (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate adequate ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate limited ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate no ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Assessment Task

End-of-term test (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in linguistics and fundamental issues in language applications.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and strong evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and some evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate limited understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.

Assessment Task

In-class group assignments (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of the nature of natural languages and basic concepts of linguistics and how they can be used in analysing our language.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of basic concepts of linguistics; and evidence of excellent understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate good evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; grasp of basic concepts of linguistics, and evidence of good understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate some evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study; adequate understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.

Assessment Task

One research paper on topics related to language and its applications (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate adequate ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate no ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.

Assessment Task

End-of-term test (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in linguistics and fundamental issues in language applications.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and strong evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and some evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics computational linguistics applied linguistics.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Lecture notes/slides/readings for the course.
2	Department of Linguistics, the Ohio State University Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics 13th Edition The Ohio State University Press. 2022.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Fromkin V., Rodman, R. and Hyams N., An introduction to language, 2011. Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.
2	Fasold Ralph W. and Connor-Linton J. An introduction to language and linguistics 2014. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
3	Pinker, Steven. The language instinct. 2001. New York: HarperCollins.