

LT6421: ADVANCED TOPICS IN CORPUS AND EMPIRICAL LINGUISTICS

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Advanced Topics in Corpus and Empirical Linguistics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

6421

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

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Corpus and empirical linguistics is one of the most important developments in language studies with an emphasis on the use of large-scale corpus data, empirical observations, quantitative methods, and scientifically verifiable findings. It represents a major departure from theoretical linguistics to real-world applications and has continued to generate new linguistic findings, new discoveries and new industries. It has played a very important role in some of the most influential areas such as speech and language technology, knowledge engineering, and cognitive science. This course serves as an introduction to a range of important issues and topics within this area of rapid development.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Recognize the importance of an empirical approach in understanding human language behaviour.	20	x	x	x
2	Explain the empirical underpinnings of language on the one hand and of the multifaceted linguistic use on the other.	20	x	x	x
3	Reflect critically on the complex relations between linguistic properties and communicative functions via discovering and identifying the interactive dynamics of language and information.	20	x	x	x
4	Conduct and critique linguistic analysis of data in relation to the complex relation between linguistic form and meaning.	20	x	x	x
5	Hypothesize and formulate generalizations regarding the empirical bases of language and the role empirical linguistics plays in the understanding of human language.	20	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 - Presentation and explanation of theories, concepts, models and methods; illustrative examples.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

2	2	Tutorials - Doing class exercises and discussing homework exercises.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	One Assignment	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30	
2	Oral Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	
3	One Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	10	

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Additional Information for ATs

Open book. Testing students' grasp of concepts and ability to demonstrate creative and critical thinking.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Assignment (30%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of capability to understand basic concepts Demonstration of capability to apply basic concepts

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent capability

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good capability

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate capability

Marginal

(D) Marginal capability

Failure

(F) No capability

Assessment Task

Oral Presentation (10%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of capability to understand basic concepts Demonstration of capability to apply basic concepts

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent capability

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good capability

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate capability

Marginal

(D) Marginal capability

Failure

(F) No capability

Assessment Task

Quiz (10%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstration of capability to understand basic concepts Demonstration of capability to apply basic concepts

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent capability

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good capability

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate capability

Marginal

(D) Marginal capability

Failure

(F) No capability

Assessment Task

Examination (50%) (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Same as Coursework but under time constraint

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent capability

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good capability

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate capability

Marginal

(D) Marginal capability

Failure

(F) No capability

Assessment Task

Assignment (30%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstration of capability to understand basic concepts Demonstration of capability to apply basic concepts

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent capability

Good

(B+, B) Good capability

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal capability

Failure

(F) Poor capability

Assessment Task

Oral Presentation (10%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstration of capability to understand basic concepts Demonstration of capability to apply basic concepts

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent capability

Good

(B+, B) Good capability

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal capability

Failure

(F) Poor capability

Assessment Task

Quiz (10%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstration of capability to understand basic concepts Demonstration of capability to apply basic concepts

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(A+, A, A-) Excellent capability

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(F) Poor capability

Assessment Task

Examination (50%) (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

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(B-, C+, C) Marginal capability

Failure

(F) Poor capability

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Lexical and grammatical processing, Stylistic variation, Discourse and communication, Semantic interpretation, Cognitive science

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Sampson, Geoffrey. 2001. Empirical Linguistics. London and New York: Continuum International.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	McEnery, Tony and Andrew Hardie. 2011. Corpus Linguistics: Method, Theory and Practice. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2	Fang, Alex Chengyu and Jing Cao. 2015. Text Genres and Registers: The Computation of Linguistic Features. Berlin and Heidelberg: Springer.
3	Bermúdez José Luis. 2010. Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the Science of the Mind. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
4	Saint-Dizier Patrick and Evelyn Viegas. 2005. Computational Lexical Semantics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.