

# LT3256: CONTRASTIVE LINGUISTICS

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**Effective Term**

Semester B 2022/23

## Part I Course Overview

**Course Title**

Contrastive Linguistics

**Subject Code**

LT - Linguistics and Translation

**Course Number**

3256

**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**

Other Languages

**Other Languages for Medium of Instruction**

English supplemented with Chinese

**Medium of Assessment**

English

**Prerequisites**

Nil

**Precursors**

Nil

**Equivalent Courses**

LT3326 Comparative Study of Chinese and English / CTL3326 Comparative Study of Chinese and English

**Exclusive Courses**

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to introduce the basic concepts and analytical techniques in the study of language from a comparative and contrastive perspective. It trains the students to become sensitive to, and skilful at examining, the differences (and similarities) between languages at various linguistic levels such as sound systems, word formations, lexis and grammar, text and discourse, and writing systems. Examples for analysis will draw on English and Chinese as well as other languages. The course prepares the students for further studies in general linguistics and applied language studies.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if DEC-A1 DEC-A2 DEC-A3 app.)			
1	Discover and analyse the differences (and similarities) between languages at various linguistic levels such as phonetics and phonology, morphology and syntax, semantics and pragmatics, text and discourse, and writing systems.		x	x	x
2	Apply the analytical concepts and techniques to fresh language data.		x	x	x
3	Observe and analyse linguistic phenomenon between different languages.		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.

### Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Presentation of key concepts and analytical techniques related to all learning outcomes with illustration of ample examples.	1, 2, 3	3 hours
2	Individual Reading	Articles and book chapters suggested by the teacher for independent learning	1, 2, 3	

3	Assignments	Short written assignments on topics discussed in the lectures, and individual/group presentation on a topic selected by the students or assigned by the teachers	1, 2, 3	
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**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)	
1	Short assignments on topics covered in lectures which monitor the students' progress in applying the concepts and techniques for contrastive analysis of linguistic data.	1, 2, 3	40	
2	Individual / group presentation which requires the students to demonstrate the ability in discovering linguistic problems for contrastive analysis.	1, 2, 3	20	

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

60

**Examination (%)**

40

**Examination Duration (Hours)**

2

**Additional Information for ATs****Examination**

A two-hour final examination which assesses the students' mastery of key concepts and analytical ability. (CILO No. 1-3)

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

1. Short assignments

**Criterion**

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in linguistic theories and how they can be used in contrastive analysis of linguistic data.

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

Excellent knowledge of major issues in contrastive linguistics  
Excellent application of the knowledge to linguistic analysis.

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

Good knowledge of major issues in contrastive linguistics  
Good application of the knowledge to linguistic analysis.

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

Adequate knowledge of major issues in contrastive linguistics  
Fair application of the knowledge to linguistic analysis.

**Marginal (D)**

Basic familiarity with the subject matter  
Marginal ability to apply knowledge to linguistic analysis.

**Failure (F)**

Poor familiarity with the subject matter  
Poor ability to apply knowledge to linguistic analysis.

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**Assessment Task**

2. Individual / group presentation

**Criterion**

Demonstrate ability to synthesize knowledge of contrastive linguistics and to make contrastive analysis on a chosen issue.

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

Excellent knowledge of major issues in contrastive linguistics  
Excellent application of the knowledge to linguistic analysis.  
Excellent team work in group presentation

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

Good knowledge of major issues in contrastive linguistics  
Good application of the knowledge to linguistic analysis.  
Good team work in group presentation

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

Adequate knowledge of major issues in contrastive linguistics  
Fair application of the knowledge to linguistic analysis.  
Adequate team work in group presentation

**Marginal (D)**

Basic familiarity with the subject matter  
Marginal ability to apply knowledge to linguistic analysis.  
Weak team work in group presentation

**Failure (F)**

Poor familiarity with the subject matter  
Poor ability to apply knowledge to linguistic analysis.  
Poor team work in group presentation

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**Assessment Task**

3. Examination

**Criterion**

Demonstrate command of the subject matter and course content.

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

Excellent command of the subject matter and course content.

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

Good command of the subject matter and course content.

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

Adequate command of the subject matter and course content.

**Marginal (D)**

Marginal understanding of the subject matter and course content.

**Failure (F)**

Poor understanding of the subject matter and course content.

## Part III Other Information

### Keyword Syllabus

What is contrastive linguistics; contrastive analysis of sound systems, lexis, grammar, text and discourse, and writing systems

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	Crystal, David, 2006. How Language Works. London: Penguin Books.
2	Fromkin, Victoria, Rodman, Robert, & Hyams, Nina, 2013. An Introduction to Language. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.
3	Leech, Geoffrey and Svartvik, Jan 2002. A Communicative Grammar of English. Harlow: Longman
4	Mao, Guoan, 2004. A Practical Course in Contrastive Studies of English and Chinese. Chongqing: Chongqing University Press.
5	Xu, Yulong, 2002. Contrastive Linguistics. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press.