

LT2229: FUNDAMENTALS OF LINGUISTICS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Fundamentals of Linguistics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

2229

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

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL2229 Linguistics I / LT2290 Introduction to Language Studies / LT2229 Linguistics I

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to:

- introduce students to the basic concepts of phonetics, phonology, morphology syntax, semantics, and other core areas of linguistics;
- enable students to analyse language data and discover and formulate rules that are observationally, descriptively and explanatorily adequate;
- lay the foundation for students to study more advanced linguistics courses.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Apply basic concepts of linguistics in areas such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.	40	x		
2	Observe and discuss language phenomena in various perspectives.	30		x	
3	Apply scientific linguistic methodology to discover and formulate rules that are observationally, descriptively and explanatorily adequate in the analysis of simple language data.	30			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	Lectures	Students will engage with presentations of concepts, illustrations, and synthesis of readings.	1, 2, 3	3 hours
2	Class Activities	Students will participate in class activities, such as group discussions, demonstrations and answering questions.	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Midterm examination A midterm exam in which students will demonstrate their grasp of linguistic concepts and theories and ability to apply them to linguistic data analysis	1, 3	30	-	No
2	Term paper One 1,200 word paper in the form of report on a mini-DEC project that will apply linguistic concepts, methodology, and theories to analyze actual language data and phenomena/ observations.	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

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Midterm examination

Criterion

Students' grasp of linguistic concepts and theories and ability to apply them to linguistic data analysis.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

2. Term paper

Criterion

Relevance; accuracy and clarity; originality; and demonstration of skills in linguistic analysis and reporting.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of excellent command of subject matter related to the area of linguistics; Excellent application of concepts and theories taught in class or beyond; Excellent analysis of data collected.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of good command of subject matter related to the area of linguistics; Good application of concepts and theories taught in class; Good analysis of data collected.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Evidence of adequate command of subject matter related to the area of linguistics; Adequate application of concepts and theories taught in class; Adequate analysis of data collected.

Marginal (D)

Inadequate command of subject matter related to the area of linguistics; Inadequate application of concepts and theories taught in class; Inadequate analysis of data collected.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter related to the area of linguistics; Poor application of concepts and theories taught in class; Poor analysis of data collected.

Assessment Task

3. Final examination

Criterion

To check if students have mastered the concepts and theories in solving linguistic problems.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal (D)

Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure (F)

Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

1. Linguistics as a scientific discipline

Properties of human natural language
Linguistics as a science
Competence and performance

2. Structure of human natural language

Structure of words
Human sounds and sound patterns
Categories and constituents in syntax
Sense and reference
Pragmatics

3. Uses and users of language

Language varieties
Dialect
Register
Genre
Style
Bilingualism
Cross-cultural communication

4. Language change

Sound changes
Grammar changes
Meaning changes
Reconstruction of proto-languages

5. Writing

History of Writing
Writing systems

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Fromkin, V., R. Rodman, and N. Hyams. 2014. An introduction to language (International 10th ed.). Wadsworth.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Online Resources: http://www.lshk.org/ Linguistic Society of Hong Kong