

## **The Acquisition of English as a Second Language: Sentence and Word Order 2015/2016**

Code: 42299

ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Advanced English Studies	OT	0	0

### **Contact**

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### **Use of languages**

Principal working language: english (eng)

### **Teachers**

Mireia Llinàs Grau

### **Prerequisites**

This subject studies language and its acquisition and, therefore, the minimum requirements are:

- a) interest in both language and the process of acquisition
- b) a good level of English to be able to read, understand and produce texts about the topic
- c) a basic knowledge of syntax\*

\* For those students who lack this knowledge, basic readings are available.

Please contact me if this is your case before the course begins.

### **Objectives and Contextualisation**

#### **Objectives**

The main objective of this course is to study how the grammar of English is acquired. We will begin with a review of language and its basic components and then consider how a first language is acquired. We will then observe the differences between L1 and L2 acquisition but will concentrate on English as an L2 and also as an L3/Ln. The course includes a review of techniques of data collection for linguistic research.

#### **Skills**

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Apply methodological knowledge of statistical analysis and data generation, treatment and codification of multilingual databases, analysis of literary texts, etc. to research.
- Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
- Critically argue, issue judgements and present ideas on the basis of the analysis of information originating from scientific production in these areas.
- Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.

- Distinguish and contrast between the different methodological and theoretical models applied to the academic study of the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.
- Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
- Use the English language for academic and professional purposes related to research into the acquisition, teaching and use of English as a second language in multilingual and multicultural contexts, literary studies and cultural studies.

## **Learning outcomes**

1. Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
2. Analyse different proposals regarding the acquisition of syntax.
3. Analyze data from English syntax of a language corpus to test hypotheses.
4. Communicate the knowledge acquired and the contributions of ones research correctly, accurately and clearly both orally and in writing.
5. Critically read academic articles on the acquisition of language from a generativist point of view.
6. Develop autonomous learning skills applicable to the research process.
7. Explain the evolution of the syntax of learners of a second language
8. Identify linguistic ideologies that influence multilingualism in different institutional contexts.
9. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
10. Write advanced level academic texts on the acquisition of language from a generativist point of view.

## **Content**

### **Units**

1. Language
2. L1 acquisition
3. The acquisition of a second language
4. The acquisition of a third language
5. Data collection

## **Methodology**

Class activities:

- Lectures on specific topics.
- Readings: comment and debate.
- In-class exercises.
- Class presentations.

Autonomous activities:

- Reading and study.
- Use of virtual campus.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Theoretical classes and group debate.	20	0.8	2, 4, 9
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Class discussion and debate. In-class exercises. Individual tutorials.	20	0.8	1, 2, 4, 5, 9
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Reading and study. Use of virtual campus.	80	3.2	1, 2, 5, 6, 10

## Evaluation

Assessment:

Written project: 60%

Oral presentation: 20%

Reading summaries, questions and exercises: 20%

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
A written project	60%	10	0.4	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
An oral presentation	20%	10	0.4	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9
Readings and exercises for each topic	20%	10	0.4	1, 2, 5, 6, 10

## Bibliography

Archibald, John (ed), *Second Language Acquisition and Linguistic Theory*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Cook, V. (1993) *Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition*. London: Macmillan.

Cornips, L. and K. Corrigan (eds) (2005) *Syntax and Variation: Reconciling the Biological and the Social*, 46-111. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Crain, S. & D. Lillo-Martin (1999) *An Introduction to Linguistic Theory and Language Acquisition*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Gass, S. & A. Mackey (2011) *Data Elicitation for Second and Foreign Language Research*, New York: Routledge.

Hawkins, R. (ed) (2001) *Second Language Syntax. A Generative Introduction*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Liceras, J. M., H. Zobl and H. Goodluck (Eds.) (2008) *The Role of Formal Features in Second Language Acquisition*. Mahawah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum. (pp.1-11)

Llinàs, M, Capdevila, M., Dominguez, J. Moyer, M., Pladevall, E. i S. Tubau. (2014) SECOND EDITION. *Basic concepts for the analysis of English sentences*. Bellaterra: Servei de Publicacions.

*\* Specific references for each unit will be provided at the beginning of the course.*