The Acquisition of English Syntax and Morphology

Code: 44030
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)

Prerequisites

A basic level of linguistics is required to follow the course.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This course introduces students to the processes of first and second language acquisition by considering both general issues and specific constructions. The objectives are to enable students to understand how a first and a second language are acquired and to be able to compare how the two processes differ and what they share.

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

Unit 1: Introduction to the Framework

Unit 2: L1 Acquisition Basics: From UG to PG

Unit 3: L1 Acquisition of Subjects

Unit 4: L1 Acquisition of Word Order

Unit 5: L2 Acquisition Basics: From L1 to L2

Unit 6: L2 Acquisition of Subjects

Unit 7: L2 Acquisition of Word Order

Methodology

Lectures to introduce topics, class discussion and class presentations. Individual tutorials.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Class discussion	26	1.04	2, 4, 5, 7, 9
Lectures to introduce topics	20	0.8	2, 3, 8
Type: Supervised			
Class presentations	20	0.8	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9
Type: Autonomous			
Readings and summaries	40	1.6	2, 5, 6, 8
Revision	20	0.8	2, 5

Evaluation

Assessment of this subject will also take into account the following:

- Only those students with a final mark between 3,5 and 4,9 who have completed all the assessment items will be allowed to sit the reassessment exam.

- The reassessment of this course will be a written exam which will inculde the complete set of contents of the subject. The maximum mark of students who pass the reassessment exam will be a 5.

Procedure for Reviewing Grades Awarded

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.
Evaluation Activities Excluded from Reassessment
The following activities are not eligible for reassessment: Assignment, practical exercises and class presentations.

VERY IMPORTANT: Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the WHOLE SUBJECT. PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text- with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a SERIOUS OFFENCE. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Assignment	30%	6	0.24	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10
Class presentations	40%	12	0.48	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9
Final exam	30%	6	0.24	1, 2, 7, 10

Bibliography

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Guasti, Maria Teresa (2002) *Language Acquisition. The Growth of Grammar*, Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

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Liceras, Juana Muñoz, Helmut Zobl and Helen Goodluck (eds) (2008) *The Role of Formal Features in Second Language Acquisition*. Mahawah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Slabakova, Roumiana (2016) *Second Language Acquisition*, Oxford: O.U.P.

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