

Language Acquisition

Code: 100196
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500243 Classics	OT	3	0
2500243 Classics	OT	4	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	3	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	4	0
2500247 Catalan Language and Literature	OT	3	0
2500247 Catalan Language and Literature	OT	4	0
2500248 Spanish Language and Literature	OT	3	0
2500248 Spanish Language and Literature	OT	4	0
2501801 Catalan and Spanish	OT	3	0
2501801 Catalan and Spanish	OT	4	0
2501902 English and Catalan	OT	3	0
2501902 English and Catalan	OT	4	0
2501907 English and Classics	OT	3	0
2501907 English and Classics	OT	4	0
2501910 English and Spanish	OT	3	0
2501910 English and Spanish	OT	4	0
2501913 English and French	OT	3	0
2501913 English and French	OT	4	0

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

Students are expected to have basic knowledge of linguistics and to be able to read in English. Exchange students can write their assignments in languages other than Catalan, but should consult the lecturer on this matter.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The goal of this course is to introduce the student to one of the empirical fields of linguistics: language acquisition. We will focus on typical development, but will also consider some cases of pathological development. By the end of the course the student should be able to carry out a piece of original research.

Competences

Classics

- Analysing the lexical, phonetic, phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of natural languages.
- Applying the various analytical tools to different types of linguistic data.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

English Studies

- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Catalan Language and Literature

- Analysing the lexical, phonetic, phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of natural languages.
- Applying the various analytical tools to different types of linguistic data.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Spanish Language and Literature

- Analysing the lexical, phonetic, phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of natural languages.
- Applying the various analytical tools to different types of linguistic data.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Catalan and Spanish

- Analysing the lexical, phonetic, phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of natural languages.
- Applying the various analytical tools to different types of linguistic data.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

English and Catalan

- Analysing the lexical, phonetic, phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of natural languages.
- Applying the various analytical tools to different types of linguistic data.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

English and Classics

- Analysing the lexical, phonetic, phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of natural languages.
- Applying the various analytical tools to different types of linguistic data.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

English and Spanish

- Analysing the lexical, phonetic, phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of natural languages.
- Applying the various analytical tools to different types of linguistic data.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

English and French

- Analysing the lexical, phonetic, phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of natural languages.
- Applying the various analytical tools to different types of linguistic data.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

Learning Outcomes

1. Accurately drawing up normative texts.
2. Assess the deficiencies in linguistic behavior of the speakers from the analysis and study of preferences.
3. Assessing the deficiencies in the linguistic behaviour of the speakers from the analysis and study of their preferences.
4. Identify main ideas and express them with secondary and linguistic correctness
5. Identify the main and secondary ideas and express them with linguistic correctness.
6. Identifying main and supporting ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
7. Identifying the main and secondary ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
8. Manage the different techniques of collection, processing and analysis of linguistic data consistent with the objective of the study.
9. Managing the different data collection, processing and analysis techniques in a manner that is consistent with the objective of the study.
10. Preparing an oral and written discourse in the corresponding language in a proper and organized way.
11. Solve problems autonomously.
12. Solving problems autonomously.
13. Summarising acquired knowledge about the origin and transformations experienced in its several fields of study.

Content

1. Introduction. Language as a defining characteristic of the species. Plato's problem. An extreme case: creoles.
2. Acquisition in typically developing children
 - 2.1. The acquisition of syntax and morphology (I). First syntactic productions. Eye-tracking: results for preverbal children.
 - 2.2. The acquisition of syntax and morphology (II). Word order. Phenomena of apparent optionality: optional infinitives and optional production of third person clitics.
 - 2.3. The acquisition of syntax (III). Passives. Related structures.
 - 2.4. The acquisition of long-distance movement. The acquisition of scrambling.
3. Some considerations on language impairment.

Methodology

The methodology used will be based on problem resolution.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Discussion of the literature	10	0.4	3, 2, 1, 10, 4, 6, 7, 5, 9, 8, 12, 11, 13
Master lectures	45	1.8	3, 2, 1, 10, 4, 6, 7, 5, 9, 8, 12, 11, 13
Type: Supervised			

Preparation of written work	23.5	0.94	3, 2, 1, 10, 4, 6, 7, 5, 9, 8, 12, 11, 13
Problem resolution	20	0.8	3, 2, 1, 10, 4, 6, 7, 5, 9, 8, 12, 11, 13
Type: Autonomous			
Reading	30	1.2	3, 2, 1, 10, 4, 6, 7, 5, 9, 8, 12, 11, 13

Assessment

The evaluation will consist in three items: (i) a written exercise, (ii) a presentation in class, summarising an experiment presented in an international publication, and (iii) a written exam at the end of the course.

Items (ii) and (iii) are a prerequisite to be reevaluated. Neither (i) nor (ii) will be subject to reevaluation. Furthermore, and following departmental policy, to be reevaluated the final mark should be between 3.5 and 4.9, and the mark obtained after reevaluation cannot be higher than 5. The lecturer will inform the students of the terms and time of revision. Plagiarism and copying in an exam will imply a zero of the item under evaluation; several irregularities of this kind will imply a zero for the whole course. Students will be 'No Avaluables' if they have not been evaluated for items (ii) and (iii).

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Presentation of an experiment taken from an international publication	30%	10	0.4	3, 2, 1, 10, 4, 6, 7, 5, 9, 8, 12, 11, 13
Written exam	50%	1.5	0.06	3, 2, 1, 10, 4, 6, 7, 5, 9, 8, 12, 11, 13
Written exercise	20%	10	0.4	3, 2, 1, 10, 4, 6, 7, 5, 9, 8, 12, 11, 13

Bibliography

Gavarró, Anna, Maya Leela, Luigi Rizzi & Julie Franck (2015) Knowledge of the OV parameter setting at 19months: Evidence from Hindi-Urdu. *Lingua* 154: 27-34.

Gavarró, Anna, Vicenç Torrens & Ken Wexler (2010) Object clitic omission: two language types. *Language Acquisition* 17(4): 192-219.

Guasti, M. Teresa (2017) *Language Acquisition. The Growth of Grammar*. Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press. Second edition.

Levi, Yonata & Jeannette Schaeffer (eds.) (2002) *Language Competence Across Populations*. Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum.

De Villiers, Jill, & Tom Roeper (eds.) (2011) *Handbook of Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition*. Berlin: Springer.

Child Language Data Exchange System <http://chilides.psy.cmu.edu>