2022/2023

The Acquisition of English Syntax and Morphology

Code: 44030
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313157 Advanced English Studies	OT	0	1

Contact

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Teachers

Mireia Llinàs Grau

Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Prerequisites

A C1 level of English and basic knowledge of linguistics are required to be able follow the course.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This module studies the process of acquiring English as a first and as a second language by analysing how children (L1) and adults (L2) acquire the form of English words and their possible combinations into English sentences. The main objective of the course is for students to understand how L1 and L2 grammars are formed and the shape they take in the two processes. The acquisition of a third language will also be considered.

Competences

- Analyse and synthesise information at an advanced level.
- Analyse the relationship between factors, processes or phenomena in the acquisition of English as a second language, its learning and teaching methods, and its literature, history and culture.
- 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 one's 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 one's 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 second-language-learner syntax.
8. Explain the evolution of the syntax of learners of a second language
9. Identify linguistic ideologies that influence multilingualism in different institutional contexts.
10. Show respect towards the opinions, values, behaviours and/or practices of others.
11. 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: Morphology and syntax

Unit 3: The acquisition of English as a first language

Unit 4: The acquisition of English as a second language

Unit 5: The acquisition of English as a third language

Methodology

The methodology of this module is based on lectures to introduce topics, class discussion of texts and practical exercises on acquisition data as well as class presentations by students.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Class discussion	26	1.04	2, 4, 10, 5, 8
Lectures to introduce topics	20	0.8	3, 2, 9
Type: Supervised			
Class participation	20	0.8	3, 1, 2, 4, 10, 8
Type: Autonomous			
Readings and summaries	40	1.6	2, 6, 9, 5
Study and revision of course content	31	1.24	2, 5

Assessment

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.

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items

Re-assessment for this subject will involve a final overall test assessing the complete course. The date and time will be announced by the Faculty. The following conditions apply:

- Having obtained a minimum course mark of 3.5/10.
- Having submitted all assessment items.
- The final course mark if the student passes the re-assessment test is 5. Students cannot re-assess to improve their course mark.

PLAGIARISM: In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Assignment	30%	5	0.2	1, 2, 4, 10, 6, 7, 9, 5, 8
Class participation and attendance	20%	2	0.08	3, 1, 2, 4, 10, 6, 11, 7, 9, 5, 8
Final Exam	50%	6	0.24	3, 1, 2, 4, 11, 7, 5, 8

Bibliography

Archibald, John (ed) (2000) *Second Language Acquisition and Linguistic Theory*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Cattel, Ray. (2000) *Children's Language: Consensus and Controversy*, London: Cassell.

Crain, Stephen. & Diane Lillo-Martin (1999) *An Introduction to Linguistic Theory and Language Acquistion*, Oxford: Backwell.

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

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

Radford, Andrew (2004) *Minimalist Syntax. Exploring the Structure of English*, Cambridge, C.U.P

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

White, Lydia (2003) *Second language acquisition and Universal Grammar.* (2nd edition) Cambridge: CUP.

Software

The course does not require specific software.