

Kahramanmaraş Sütçü Imam University
Department of Western Languages and Literatures
English Linguistics Master of Arts Program Course Contents

Research Methods And Ethics

This course provides an introduction to central methodological issues within linguistic research. A primary goal is to give the students an understanding of the diversity of methods employed in linguistics. The course will discuss methodological approaches from a range of sub-disciplines while offering the opportunity to specialize in at least one specific research method. The course aims to train students in developing research questions and to assess the applicability and relevance of different research methods, thus providing them with the foundation for developing individual master's projects. The course covers topics such as inductive vs. deductive methods, qualitative vs. quantitative data, research ethics and criticism of sources. Furthermore, the students will be introduced to a wide range of methodological approaches such as corpus analysis, discourse analysis, functional and pragmatic analysis of linguistic features.

Source Studies in Linguistics

This course covers the processes of systematically searching, analyzing, and synthesizing scientific literature within the framework of English Linguistics. Students will build the theoretical foundation necessary for their graduate thesis process and develop a professional methodology for their thesis literature review section. In the first half of the course, core sub-disciplines of linguistics—such as Semantics, Pragmatics, Applied Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, Sociolinguistics, and Corpus Linguistics—are examined in depth in terms of both theoretical literature and methodological approaches. The second half of the course focuses entirely on producing a Systematic Review manuscript. Students will acquire skills in designing research questions, developing advanced search strategies in prestigious databases such as WoS and Scopus, data screening, and synthesizing findings within a theoretical framework. By the end of the semester, each student will have created a publishable-quality review article draft aimed at filling a specific gap in the field of linguistics.

Basic Concepts and Principles of Linguistics

The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a robust theoretical and analytical framework for understanding the English language as both a formal system and a dynamic social practice. By traversing the core "micro" levels of linguistics—from the mechanics of sound and word formation to the complexities of syntax and meaning—students will develop the technical precision required for advanced research.

Psycholinguistics

This MA-level course provides a comprehensive exploration of the cognitive, biological, and developmental foundations of human language. It begins by examining the core theoretical debates in psycholinguistics, specifically the tension between innate linguistic structures and usage-based learning. Students will analyze the psychological mechanisms of the "Internal Lexicon," investigating how words are stored, retrieved, and organized within semantic networks. The curriculum then shifts to real-time processing, detailing the complex mental steps involved in parsing sentences and constructing coherent discourse. A significant portion of the course is dedicated to language acquisition, covering the milestones of first language development alongside the cognitive nuances of second and third language learning. Finally, the course situates these processes within their biological context, exploring the neuroanatomy of language and the evolutionary roots of our communicative abilities.

Discourse Analysis

This course bridges the gap between linguistic structure and the social functions of power and identity. It begins with foundational mechanics like cohesion and pragmatics before moving into Critical Discourse Analysis to deconstruct political ideologies and rhetoric. A core focus is placed on Gender Discourse, exploring how identities are performatively constructed and negotiated through talk. Students also investigate the linguistic constraints of Institutional Talk in professional settings and the multimodal complexities of Digital Discourse.

Semiotics

The aim of this course is to enable students to develop an in-depth understanding of sign, meaning, and representation processes within linguistic, cultural, and social contexts. The course examines classical semiotic theories (e.g., Saussure, Peirce, Barthes) from a comparative and integrative perspective, focusing on how meaning is produced, circulated, and ideologically constructed. It further aims to enhance students' ability to analyze verbal

and non-verbal signs, interpret cultural codes, and critically examine meaning-making processes in media texts. In addition, the course seeks to equip students with the skills to integrate theoretical knowledge with multimodal analysis approaches and to produce independent academic analyses.

Semantics

The course begins by exploring foundational approaches to meaning, distinguishing between the stable sense of words and their real-world reference. It then examines the architecture of the mental lexicon through lexical relations and the systematic ways figurative language structures abstract thought. A significant portion is dedicated to predicate-argument structure, where students analyze how verbs assign semantic roles and manage sentential arguments. The syllabus further investigates the temporal and logical dimensions of language, specifically focusing on aspect, modality, and factive presuppositions. Students are introduced to the rigorous logical modeling of formal semantics alongside the embodied, experience-based frameworks of cognitive semantics. Finally, the program evaluates the interfaces between meaning and other linguistic layers, particularly regarding morphological derivation and the boundary between semantics and pragmatics.

Current Trends in Linguistics

This course covers current trends and emerging research areas in linguistics. It introduces cognitive linguistics, pragmatics and discourse analysis, multimodal analysis, corpus linguistics, and digital language studies. It also examines language use in media, technology, and social contexts within interdisciplinary frameworks. Throughout the course, students analyse real datasets, media texts, and digital content, applying contemporary linguistic methods. The course integrates theory and practice to develop students' analytical thinking, critical evaluation, and academic research skills.

History of Linguistics

This course examines the historical development of linguistics from Antiquity to the present within major theoretical frameworks. It begins with philosophical discussions on language in Ancient Greece (Plato, Aristotle, and the Stoics), followed by medieval perspectives on language and logic as well as the idea of universal grammar (Aquinas and the Modistae). The course then addresses the transformations in linguistic thought during the Renaissance and the emergence of comparative linguistics in the 18th and 19th centuries (William Jones and the

Neogrammarians). The course continues with the foundations of modern linguistics, focusing on Ferdinand de Saussure's structuralism, American structuralism (Bloomfield), and generative linguistics (Chomsky), examined through a comparative perspective. In addition, contemporary approaches to linguistics are introduced, including functional linguistics (Halliday), pragmatics and discourse analysis (Austin, Searle, Grice), cognitive linguistics (Lakoff, Langacker), and sociolinguistics (Labov), highlighting the relationships between language, use, context, mind, and society.

Comparative Linguistics

This course examines the fundamental concepts and methods of comparative linguistics through an applied, data-driven approach. It focuses on cross-linguistic comparisons between English, Turkish, and optionally German, analysing structural (syntax, morphology), semantic (tense-aspect, modality), and pragmatic (language use, discourse) differences.

Throughout the course, students work with real language data to identify similarities and differences across languages and to explore the systematic nature of language change. The course also introduces the comparative method, typological approaches, language universals, and reconstruction techniques. In the later stages, applied aspects of comparative linguistics are emphasized, including language contact, borrowing, translation, and equivalence. The course integrates theoretical knowledge with data analysis to develop students' analytical thinking, comparative reasoning, and academic research skills.

Gender Studies

This course explores the complex interplay between gender, discourse, and culture within the framework of English Linguistics. Students will critically examine how language constructs, reflects, and reinforces gender identities and power dynamics. Grounded in Gender Linguistics, Critical Discourse Analysis, and Feminist Linguistics theories, the course guides students through the analysis of spoken and written texts. Key topics include language and ideology, patriarchy, intersectionality, and linguistic biases in diverse communicative contexts. The objective is to equip graduate students with analytical tools to deconstruct gendered structures in language and to foster independent research in sociolinguistic studies. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply qualitative and quantitative methodologies to investigate language and gender intersections, contributing critically to contemporary debates in English linguistics and cultural studies.

Language and Culture

This course examines the dynamic interrelationship between language and culture from the perspective of English linguistics. Drawing on critical discourse analysis, and cultural theory, it critically explores the role of language in identity construction, ideological production, and power relations. The course aims to develop students' analytical and research skills through interdisciplinary approaches.

Ecolinguistics

This course investigates the relationship between language, ecology, and sustainability, focusing on discourse analysis and environmental narratives. Through critical ecolinguistic analysis, students examine environmental narratives, speciesist language, and the linguistic diversity of indigenous cultures, developing the theoretical and analytical frameworks needed to challenge environmentally harmful discourse and foster life-affirming communication.

Sociolinguistics

The course aims to explore relationships between language and society focusing on variation, identity, and power. It also intends to investigate core frameworks in the field, including variationist sociolinguistics, speech acts, politeness theories, language attitudes, bilingualism, and code-switching, alongside the social dynamics of language policy and planning.

Syntax

This course focuses on equipping students with the ability to analyze sentence structures and hierarchical relationships in language within the framework of the universal grammar model, presenting the fundamental principles and mechanisms of the Generative Syntax approach from a scientific and cognitive perspective. The syllabus begins by examining foundational syntactic concepts such as parts of speech, constituency, structural relations, and tree hierarchy. Subsequently, the basic structure of sentences is modeled by detailing X-bar, Binding, and Theta theories. In the later stages of the term, syntactic movement operations—including Head movement, Determiner Phrase (DP) movement, and Wh-movement—along with locality constraints, are addressed. The program concludes with an in-depth analysis of raising and control structures, empty categories, and cross-linguistic structural variations (such as polysynthesis and non-configurationality). This entire theoretical and practical process is comprehensively designed to enable students to attain the competence required to conduct independent academic research in the field of syntax.

Corpus Linguistics

This course aims to equip graduate students with the foundational concepts, methodological approaches, and advanced applied analysis techniques of corpus linguistics, thereby providing them with the technical skills to utilize this methodology in their own academic research. The first four weeks of the syllabus are dedicated to theoretical topics such as corpus design, representativeness, balance, and theoretical frameworks (corpus-based and corpus-driven approaches). Following this theoretical background, the course transitions to an applied phase where students learn how to compile original data using contemporary methods such as APIs and web scraping; and how to clean, annotate (POS tagging), and process data using free software tools like AntConc, LanksBox, and UAM CorpusTool. In the analytical dimension, investigations are carried out across a wide spectrum, including lexical bundles, pragmatic markers, discourse and metadiscourse analysis, structural and functional patterns, and multimodal corpus studies. The ultimate goal of the course is to ensure that students integrate these theoretical and technical skills to produce a concrete research product that complies with academic standards, utilizing the data they have independently compiled.

Pragmatics

This course aims to equip students with the ability to critically and empirically analyze natural language data in context by integrating the fundamental theoretical frameworks of pragmatics with corpus-oriented research methods. The program initially covers classical pragmatic topics such as meaning, context, deixis, speech act theory, the cooperative principle, implicature, relevance theory, and politeness theory. In the later stages, the focus shifts to advanced themes such as the analysis of pragmatic and discourse markers, cross-cultural pragmatics, pragmatic development in second language acquisition, and multimodal institutional discourse. Throughout the process, students conduct applied pragmatic investigations on spontaneous and large datasets by blending qualitative analysis approaches with essential corpus tools like AntConc. The ultimate goal of the course is to enable students to produce independent micro-analysis projects of their own design utilizing the theoretical and technical foundation they have acquired.

Phonetics

This course centers on providing students with the theoretical and empirical foundation necessary for the description and analysis of the sound systems of language, comparatively examining the phonetic and phonological features of English and Turkish within the

framework of modern linguistic theories. The program initially covers fundamental concepts in phonetics and phonology, alongside modern theoretical approaches such as Generative Phonology and Optimality Theory. Accordingly, articulatory and acoustic phonetics, distinctive features, syllable structure, and suprasegmental units (stress, rhythm, intonation) are explored. In the subsequent stages, theoretical knowledge is put into practice through applied analyses on natural spoken corpora (e.g., academic presentations) utilizing acoustic analysis software like Praat. Specifically, the pronunciation differences between content and function words, as well as the investigation of discourse and pragmatic markers within the context of the prosody-pragmatics interface, constitute the main focal points of the process. The ultimate aim of the course is to enable students to conduct independent and original research based on natural speech data using the theoretical and analytical skills they have acquired.

Diachronic (Historical) Linguistics

This course aims to introduce students to the fundamental mechanisms governing language change over time and the diachronic analysis methods of these changes, focusing specifically on English to teach the theoretical foundations of phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic transformations. The syllabus initially covers fundamental topics such as the nature of language change, the Indo-European language family and the origins of English, sound laws (Grimm's, Verner's), grammaticalization processes, and semantic shifts. Alongside classical historical linguistics theories, the course strongly focuses on modern approaches such as "historical corpus linguistics" and "historical pragmatics". In this context, methods for diachronic data querying using historical corpora (e.g., COHA, EEBO) and the historical evolution of linguistic politeness and terms of address are examined. Throughout the process, students conduct an empirical research project by comparing data obtained from Old and Middle English texts with modern English. The ultimate goal of the course is to develop students' abilities to conduct independent empirical research on historical datasets and report the evolution of language within a scientific framework, integrating traditional methods with modern corpus-based approaches.

Applied Linguistics

This course aims to introduce the fundamental fields of applied linguistics, focusing particularly on the strong link between "second language acquisition (SLA)" and "language teaching/learning," while critically examining how linguistic theories reflect on in-class

pedagogical practices. The syllabus initially covers theories of first and second language acquisition (behaviorism, innatism, cognitive, and sociocultural approaches), interlanguage development, and learner variables such as age, motivation, and anxiety. In the subsequent stages, contemporary themes are explored, including traditional language teaching approaches, corpus-driven materials design, translanguaging, principles of language assessment and evaluation, computer-assisted language learning (CALL), and the current role of artificial intelligence (AI) in language education. Going beyond the mere memorization of theoretical knowledge, students are expected to conduct error analysis on authentic learner data and practically utilize analytical tools, such as corpora, in materials development. The ultimate goal of the course is to enable students to learn research methods to translate these theoretical discussions into practice, ultimately producing an independent, empirical research project in the field of applied linguistics by the end of the term.