AN INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN LINGUISTICS – 5 creds.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course Introduction to Research in Linguistics is compulsory for those students wishing to specialise in linguistics. In this course we will offer a theoretical and practical introduction to research methods in linguistics (corpus methods as well as other empirical methods). In particular, we will focus on the use of recent research methods in corpus linguistics to investigate native corpora as well as second language (L2) corpora. Additionally, you will also acquire practical skills on how to create basic experiments in applied linguistics (L2 acquisition), and how to analyse results with basic statistical techniques. Finally, you will also learn how to analyse the sections of empirical papers in linguistics and how to structure a paper as well as how to present the aims/methods/results of empirical papers/your MA dissertation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To identify and apply the most suitable procedure and data source in each research project.

- To identify and apply the most suitable computerised corpora and their resources to each research project.

- To learn how to use the most popular corpus software and corpus resources.

- To sample, collect and process (quasi) experimental data in applied linguistics.

- To understand the basics of experimental design in applied linguistics (variables, hypotheses, basic designs).

- To use statistical software so as to analyse linguistic data with basic statistical techniques (t-tests and correlations).

- To analyse the sections of an empirical paper in linguistics and to apply such analysis to the student's own research/dissertation.

- To learn how to structure a research paper in linguistics according to standardised conventions in linguistics (planning, organization, drafting).

- To learn how to present clearly the aims, methods and results of empirical research in linguistics.

CONTACT ACTIVITIES:

Lectures

Seminars

Oral presentations

Individual/group work

Office hours/feedback on TFM

NON-CONTACT ACTIVITIES:

Self-study

Assignment and/or MA dissertation preparation

Assessment criteria: Criteria are based on the degree of achievement of the learning outcomes.

Assessment procedure:

1. **Active participation (20%):** Students are expected to attend classes and participate actively.

2. **Assignment and practical exercises:**

3.

> **Practical exercises** (**40%**): each lecturer will set a series of practical exercises based on the course contents/learning outcomes.
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> **Oral presentation** (**40%**)**:** each student will be required to practically apply the learning outcomes acquired during the course in a presentation. In particular, students will prepare a brief oral-powerpoint presentation on one of their chosen areas of interest within linguistics with a view to get verbalize and explain their intended MA dissertation project. Depending on the student's chosen topic, each student will choose one of the lecturers based on their area of expertise. The lecturer will deal with this part of the assessment.

Brief course outline:

1. Research methods in descriptive linguistics

1. Introduction: research fields and projects in descriptive Linguistics

2. Data collection in descriptive Linguistics

3. Tools for data analysis and project writing in descriptive Linguistics

2. Research methods in applied linguistics

1. Language corpora in applied linguistics [Díaz-Negrillo]

1. Learner corpora: types and applications

2. Learner corpus design, annotation and analysis

2. Experimental methods in applied linguistics [Lozano]

1. Experimental design and data collection in Applied Linguistics

2. Basic statistical analysis in Applied Linguistics

3. Description of research results in applied linguistics: writing a paper

1. Content organization and structure

2. Language problems: syntax, semantics, and pragmatics

3. Strategies for effective communication

Please check the MA webpage for the latest timetable version and/or last-minute changes: http://www.maenglishugr.com/

Bibliography

Corpora in applied linguistics

Granger, S., Gilquin, G. & Meunier, F. (2015) The Cambridge Handbook of Learner Corpus Research. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
Lozano, C., & Mendikoetxea, A. (2013). Learner corpora and second language acquisition: The design and collection of CEDEL2. In A. Diaz-Negrillo, N. Ballier & P. Thompson (Eds.), *Automatic treatment and analysis of learner corpus data* (pp. 65–100). Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins.

Corpus resources in applied linguistics

Antconc. http://www.laurenceanthony.net/software/antconc/
UAM corpus tool. http://www.corpustool.com/

Research methods / statistics in (applied) linguistics:

Brown, J. D., & Rodgers, T. S. (2002). *Doing Second Language Research*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Dörnyei, Z. (2007). *Research Methods in Applied Linguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Gass, S. M., & Mackey, A. (2007). *Data Elicitation for Second and Foreign Language Research*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
Larson-Hall, J. (2010). *A Guide to Doing Statistics in Second Language Research Using SPSS*. Abingdon: Routledge.
Lowie, W., & Seton, B. (2013). *Essential Statistics for Applied Linguistics*. Houndsmills: Palgrave Macmillan.
Mackey, A. & Gass, S. M. (2005). *Second Language Research: Methodology and Design*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
Mackey, A., & Gass, S. M. (Eds.). (2012). *Research Methods in Second Language Acquisition: A Practical Guide*.

Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

McEnery, T. and Hardie, A. (2012). *Corpus Linguistics: Method, Theory and Practice.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Seliger, H. W. & Shohamy, E. (1989). *Second Language Research Methods.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Wray, Alison and Bloomer, A. (1998) *Projects in Linguistics. A Practical Guide to Researching Language.* London: Arnold.

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