

MA Linguistics Semester II – Course Descriptions

Course Title	Phonology I (Core)
Course Code	LS 121
Semester	II
No. of Credits	4
Days/Timings	Monday: 11.00 – 1.00 pm Wednesday: 11.00 – 1.00 pm
Name of Faculty Member(S)	Prof. Hemalatha Nagarajan & Prof. P. Madhavan
Course Descriptions:	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The course presents an overview of the difference between phonetics and phonology, the development of phonological theory within a Generative framework, especially the use of distinctive features (binary vs monovalent representations), phonological processes, and the notion of underlying representation and surface representation.</p> <p>Objectives and Learning Outcomes</p> <p>The course is intended to present the scope of phonology (Phonetics vs. phonology).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will gain an understanding of the following areas -the identification of phonological processes and natural classes, the nature of phonological explanations, the structure of phonological theory, the shape of phonological representations (features vs. elements), and a comparison between different theories of phonological processes.• Students will also be able to identify theoretical approaches to phonological analysis, produce evidence of analytical ability and determine phonological processes evident in a wide-range of the World's languages. <p>Modules</p> <p>Module 1: What is phonology? Difference between phonetics and phonology</p> <p>Module 2: Structural phonology: Identification of Phonemes</p> <p>Module 3: Problems with Structural Phonology- Introduction to Generative Phonology</p> <p>Module 4: Distinctive Features</p> <p>Module 5: Different Phonological Processes</p> <p>Module 6: Rules and Rule Ordering</p> <p>Module 7: Prosodic Hierarchy- the Notion of the Syllable</p> <p>Module 8: Brief Introduction to Autosegmental Phonology</p>
Evaluation Scheme	Internals: Quizzes, Assignments, Tests (Open Book) 40 % Externals: Semester- end examination 60 %

Course Title	Semantics I (Core)
Course Code	LS 151
Semester	II
No. of Credits	4
Days/Timings	Tuesday: 3.00 – 5.00 Thursday: 11.00 – 1.00 pm
Name of Faculty Member(S)	Dr. Utpal Lahiri
Course Descriptions:	<p>This course is an introduction to basic semantics. At least one introductory syntax class, though not required, will be very useful. Some knowledge of basic mathematical notions from set theory and logic will be assumed, but much of it will be introduced as we move along in the class, so students without the background should not have problems. We attempt to answer questions like: what is meaning? How do meanings combine? We approach semantic theory in the context of modern generative grammar. Topics include reference and truth, proper names, predication, quantification, logical form in philosophy and linguistics, rules of semantic composition.</p> <p>Course Objectives: The aim of this course is to familiarize students with current theories</p> <p>Module 1: <u>Basic Notions</u>. Syntax and Semantics, Semantic rules and Grammar, Truth Conditions, Entailment and Synonymy, Set theory, Lexicons. (Chapter 1 of the Altshuler et al.).</p> <p>Module 2: <u>Meaning Relations</u>. Entailment, Implicature, Presuppositions, Synonymy, Appropriateness, Anaphoric Relations. (Chapter 1 of Chierchia and McConnell-Ginet)</p> <p>Module 3: <u>Symbolic Logic</u>. Atomic Sentences and their parts, Connectives, Quantifiers, Predicate Conjunction, Rules of SL. Truth values, truth Conditions, Extensions, Languages, Grammars. (Chapter 2 of Altshuler et al.)</p> <p>Module 4: <u>Sentences and Determiner Phrases</u>. Syntax, Direct and Indirect Interpretation, Quantificational DPs. (Chapter 3 of Altshuler et al.), a very basic introduction to Generalized Quantifier Theory.</p> <p>Essential Readings: Primary: <i>A Course in Semantics</i>, by Altshuler, D., Terence Parsons and R. Schwarzschild. Forthcoming from MIT Press in 2019 Occasionally we will also look at material from: <i>Meaning and Grammar: An Introduction to Semantics</i>, by Chierchia, G. and S. McConnell-Ginet (2nd Edition). 2000. MIT Press. <i>Semantics in Generative Grammar</i>, by Heim, Irene and Angelika Kratzer. 1998. Blackwell Publishers.</p> <p>Some online material: There isn't much online audiovisual material that is useful for this course at the level we need (unlike, say for syntax). I will assign reading material from the web from time to time. The lectures on semantics from the UGC e-Pathshala website will be useful (you will find text and videos under "Introduction to Formal Semantics" if you follow this link: http://epgp.inflibnet.ac.in/Home/ViewSubject?catid=22</p>
Evaluation Scheme	There will be regular homework assignments, midterm exams and a final exam. The grades will be based on: Internals (homework, quizzes and exams) 40%, and Final Exam 60% respectively.

Course Title	Language Acquisition (core)
Course Code	LS 194
Semester	II
No. of Credits	4
Days/Timings	Thursday: 2.00 – 4.00 pm Friday: 9.00 – 11.00 am
Name of Faculty Member(S)	Prof. Shruti Sircar
Course Descriptions:	<p>Course details Language Acquisition (LS 194) is an introductory course designed to enable students to acquire an understanding of the process of language acquisition, including how children learn words, learn sounds and learn how to construct grammatically correct sentences. It provides students with the basic skills for carrying out child language acquisition research. Issues covered include collecting, describing and interpreting children's data and reporting research findings. Students will be given an opportunity to analyze some data from a child who is in the process of learning language.</p> <p>Module 1 Introduction to language acquisition Unit 1: First, second, bilingual and foreign language acquisition Unit 2: Language as a computational system Unit 3: Theories of language acquisition: behaviourism, constructivism, nativism and connectionism Unit 4: Logical problem of language acquisition Unit 5: Universal Grammar and constraints Unit 6: Critical Period Unit 7: Milestones in child language acquisition</p> <p>Module 2: First Steps into Language Unit 8: Rhythm based discrimination of languages Unit 9: Learning of Phonemic Contrasts Unit 10: Infant speech production: babbling, babbling drift Unit 11: Finding words from an acoustic stream Unit 12: Transitional probability and word discrimination Unit 13: Acquiring meaning of words (nouns and verbs) Unit 14: Semantic and syntactic bootstrapping</p> <p>Module 3: Emergence of morpho-syntax Unit 15: Word Order in Children's Productions Unit 16: Early clauses Unit 17: Root infinitives and properties Unit 18: RI theories: small clause hypothesis; truncation: ATOM; null auxiliary Unit 19: Unique checking constraint and minimize violation Unit 20: Case errors and RI Unit 21: Subject Agreement relation Unit 22: Null subjects: pro drop or topic drop</p> <p>Module 4: Acquisition of sentence structure Unit 23: Acquisition of Wh-Movement Unit 24: Long-Distance Wh-Movement Unit 25: Relative Clauses Unit 26: Acquisition of NP-Movement 245 Unit 27: Acquisition of the Passive construction</p> <p>Module 5: Acquisition of control, binding and quantification Unit 28: Acquisition of control Unit 29: Acquisition of Principle A Unit 30: Acquisition of Principle B Unit 31: Acquisition of Principle C Unit 32: Children's error with universal quantifiers</p>

	<p>Required Reading Maria Teresa Guasti (2003) Language Acquisition: the Growth of Grammar. MIT Press. Barbara Lust (2012). Child Language. CUP Erika Hoff (2012). Language Development. Cengage Learning. Journals that publish child language acquisition research include, First Language, Language Acquisition, Journal of Child language, Language Acquisition, Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behaviour.</p>
Evaluation Scheme	<p>Three quizzes (MCQ, short/long answers) – 40% of the internal assessment Final examination – 60% of the final assess</p>