

**Introduction to the study of linguistics**  
**KAJ/AJdb/ULIN/22**  
**Course description**

Teacher:	Dr. habil. Gábor Gyóri, PhD.
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Form of the course:	lecture and seminar
Number of credits:	4
Time and place:	Wednesday, lecture 14:15-15:00, seminars 8:50-10:25, 15:10-16:45, T301

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the basic concepts of linguistics and to provide basic knowledge of the areas and the most important trends in linguistics. Beyond that, the lecture wants to give an overview of the contexts of language and thinking, language and culture, language and society. It outlines the most important linguistic problems and their research questions, as well as the methods of their research, the generally accepted scientific answers to them, and the controversial positions on and approaches to these problems.

Lecture

1. Communication and language: What is communication?
2. Communication and language: What is language?
3. Language and linguistics: Linguistic knowledge: competence vs. performance. Levels of linguistic description.
4. Major types of linguistic approaches.
5. Language and languages: The linguistic sign. The rule character of language. Characteristics of natural languages.
6. Phonetics and phonology: Phonation and articulation. Minimal pairs.
7. Morphology: Types of affixes. Compounding and derivation. Inflection.
8. Syntax: Sentence structure. The categorization of sentences.
9. Semantics: Theories of meaning. Word meaning and sentence meaning.
10. Pragmatics: Speech acts. Implicature and inferred meaning. Contextual knowledge.
11. Sociolinguistics: Horizontal and vertical variation. Speech community and social norms.
12. Historical linguistics: Language change. Linguistic reconstruction. Language relationships and typology.
13. Field studies in linguistics: Anthropological linguistics and ethnolinguistics.

Seminar

1. Forms of communication.
2. The cognitive basis of language: Language and thought.
3. What's in a word? Lexicology.
4. The sounds of language: Phonetics and phonology.
5. Meaningful building blocks: Morphology.
6. Putting concepts together: Syntax.
7. Mid-term test
8. Language, culture and meaning: Cross-cultural semantics.
9. Doing things with words: Pragmatics.
10. Sociolinguistics / dialectology.

11. Language across time: Historical linguistics.
12. Comparing languages: Language classification, typology, and contrastive linguistics.
13. End-term test

The material for the seminars is downloadable from Moodle:

Chapters from the textbook: Dirven, R. & Verspoor, M. (2004). *Cognitive Exploration of Language and Linguistics*. (Second Revised Edition). Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

#### Recommended literature

- Crystal, D. (1991). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. & Hyams, N. (2011). *An Introduction to Language*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth.
- Meyer, C. F. (2009). *Introducing English Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Yule, G. (2012). *The Study of Language*. (Fourth edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### Evaluation will be based on:

- active participation in seminars, performance of tasks
- preparation of predetermined assignments
- participation in the mid-term and end-term tests during the semester

At the end of the semester students will take a written exam. The grading scale of the exam test is as follows: A - 100% - 90%, B - 89% - 80%, C - 79% - 70%, D - 69% - 60%, E - 59% - 50%, FX - 49% - 0%