

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Humanities and Social Sciences

ENG423A: Current Issues in Linguistics

Semester: 2021-22-II

Instructors: Achla M. Raina & Chaithra Puttaswamy

January 04, 2022

First Course Handout

Course Objective: The course introduces students to some of the recent developments in the study of language within the field of Linguistics. The objective is to sensitize them to the place of language in human cognitive and cultural spaces.

Course Prerequisites: Interest in issues of language and cognition

Topics to be covered in the available 41 classes:

1. Introductory: Language and Cognition and what the relationship means to the study of language
2. Different perspectives on the study of language: language structure (Phonology, Morphology, Lexicon, Syntax, Semantics, Logic), Context of use (Pragmatics, Sociolinguistics), Cognitive underpinnings of language (Cognitive linguistics, Psycholinguistics)
3. Prescriptive, descriptive and generative traditions in the study of language
4. Internalism and externalism
5. Cognitive linguistics
6. Explaining language change
7. Contextualising language: Language as a carrier of culture
8. Language and social control
9. Feminist critique of language
10. Language documentation and archiving

Schedule

Wed/Thu/Fri 11:00am-12:00noon (Synchronous Lectures)

Resources

A selection from the following:

1. What is Linguistics? Martin Hilpert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFRJhupLYrQ>

2. Campbell, L. 2003. "The History of Linguistics" in Arnoff, M. and Janie Rees-Miller (eds) *The Handbook of Linguistics*. Blackwell.

3. Syntactic Phrase Structure Martin Hilpert

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1L2mG4FiGis&t=40s>

4. Linguistics as a window to understanding the brain Steven Pinker

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-B_ONJIEcE&t=2s

5. Cognitive Linguistics Martin Hilpert (Lecture Series)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeH3C39Dawg&list=PLKgdsSsfw-faeun9_0LVETPT-ZGpKptlj

6. How language shapes thought Lera Boroditsky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I64RtGofPW8>

7. Croft, William. 2000. Explaining language change: An evolutionary approach. Longman.

8. Both not half: How language shapes Identity Jassa Ahluwalia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SP0bAQ8J6C0>

9. Standard language: words of the world Nicola McLelland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4knCakLhPaU>

10. Robin Lakoff. 1973. Language and Woman's Place. In *Language in Society*, Vol. 2, No. 1. pp. 45-80. Cambridge University Press

11. Anthony C. Woodbury. 2003. Defining documentary linguistics. In Peter K. Austin (ed.) *Language Documentation and Description*, vol 1. London: SOAS. pp. 35-51

12. Chelliah, Shobhana. 2018. Reflections on language documentation in India. In McDonnell, Bradley, Andrea L. Berez-Kroeker, and Gary Holton. (Eds.) *Reflections on Language Documentation 20 Years after Himmelmann 1998. Language Documentation & Conservation Special Publication no. 15. [PP 248-255] Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.*

Evaluation Components

Mid Semester Report: 50 Marks

End Semester Report: 50 Marks

Policies

- Use of available resources without acknowledgement, and any other kinds of unfair practices including collaboration in assessments are seriously discouraged. Any violation of the **honour code** will be dealt with under guidelines from IIT Kanpur Ordinances and/or SSAC Manual.

Online Platforms

- Platform for course management: <https://hello.iitk.ac.in/>
- Videoconferencing Platform for synchronous lecture delivery: Zoom (link to be announced.)