

English Linguistics III: Sociolinguistic Aspects (A001245)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits	5.0	Study time	150 h	Contact hrs	45.0 h
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Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

B (semester 1)	English	lecture	30.0 h
		lecture: plenary	15.0 h
		exercises	

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Slembrouck, Stef	LW06	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Archaeology	5	B

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

English, linguistics, sociolinguistic aspects

Position of the course

This advanced course provides a thorough introduction to sociolinguistics, its key themes and tradition, from its beginnings in the 1960s and up to an including the current era. The course is aimed at students with a background in linguistics and builds on the linguistic courses offered in the first and second year.

Contents

Discussion of the aims, hypotheses, methods and important aspects of sociolinguistics.

1. THE FORMULATION OF A SOCIOLINGUISTIC PROJECT, incl. an early map of language variation (Labov, Trudgill)
2. THE SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF COMMUNITY: the early language education debate (Bernstein, Labov, Hymes), language policy and planning, language attitudes, Folk linguistics, language accommodation, person-oriented features (age, gender), dialects, diatypic variation, codeswitching, varieties of English, incl. pidgins and creoles.
3. THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF RECENT DECADES: paradigm shifts, methodological hybridity and evolving interdisciplinary engagements
4. A SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF GLOBALISATION: migration-affected sociolinguistic diversity in advanced industrial societies; postcolonial contexts of English; linguistic theoretical challenges (how to understand what is meant by "(a) language", "community", "multilingualism"); language, educational success and inequality re-visited; the implications of multilingualism for the functioning of institutions; language shift/loss, language attrition and the hegemony of English, linguistic citizenship.
5. FOUR GUEST LECTURES ON THE SOCIOLINGUISTICS OF ENGLISH IN A CONTEXT OF GLOBALISATION: (i) new media, (ii) lingua franca English, (iii) the multilingual linguistic landscapes of world cities and (iv) multilingual practice in a post-colonial environment.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the courses English linguistics I and English linguistics II or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To have knowledge of the sociolinguistic themes discussed in the lectures, in particular of the research questions, methods and aims of sociolinguistic research, since the beginning in the 1960s and including the present era of globalisation

- 2 To be able to read, summarise and comment on sociolinguistic key texts.
- 3 To be able to provide a synthetic and coherent account of the most important results of the research discussed in the lectures.
- 4 To be able to establish links between different sociolinguistic traditions, incl. the key concepts and the methodological choices that were/are made.
- 5 To be able to reflect critically on the nature, role and function of language in society.
- 6 To be able to take the examination in fluent and idiomatic English.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, lecture: plenary exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lectures.

Learning materials and price

Hand-outs, Powerpoint presentations, a reading list, video-recordings of academic lectures and presentations (via YouTube). All materials are made available via the online learning platform.

References

Course content-related study coaching

In group.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Oral examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment moment

Periodical

Oral examination with written preparation.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% periodical evaluation

Facilities for Working Students

1. Exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance is possible.
 2. It is possible to reschedule the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
 3. Feedback can be given by email or by appointment.
- For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy