

Analysing English Discourse (Syllabus)

Teaching methods (seminar course)

Teaching time: whole July, 2 hours a day, four days a week for four weeks

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	08:00-09:50 or 10:10-12:00
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	14:00-15:50 or 16:10-18:00

General Introduction: This is a one-term course introducing the key concepts in discourse analysis and linguistic pragmatics with an attempt to provide a unified working model for students to apply linguistic concepts and theoretical mechanism to the analysis of a variety of language pieces in English. The aim is not to engage students with abstruse theoretical notions and related controversies but to encourage them to actively apply key notions to the analysis of a variety of English data which they will be asked to examine and analyse with the guidance of the lecturer.

Objectives: By taking this course, students will be able to have an understanding of some basic concepts and processes in pragmatics and discourse studies. They will learn the skills in doing a competent data analysis by bringing out the key linguistic features and the hidden but context-related implications, attitudes and ideological commitments embedded in the data. They are expected to develop sensitivity to worthy features in different genres of discourse and texts. In the process of doing analytic work, students will also be trained to have an appreciation of social and cultural values and their variations as exhibited in the data, some of which is intercultural in nature.

Indicative Content (each lecture lasts for two hours):

Lecture 1. a. Traits of verbal communication and multimodal discourse

Lecture 2. Context and context-sensitive language phenomena (1)

- Lecture 3. Context and context-sensitive language phenomena (2)
- Lecture 4. Pragmatic principles: Cooperation or relevance
- Lecture 5. Discourse Structures and discourse particles
- Lecture 6. Ethical Issues in data collection and using computer tools for discourse analysis
- Lecture 7. Small talk and etiquette
- Lecture 8. Face and politeness
- Lecture 9. Using politically correct language in communication
- Lecture 10. Figures and poetic effects
- Lecture 11. Stance, power and ideology
- Lecture 12. Analysing advertisements
- Lecture 13. Conversation analysis and what it tells us about social behaviour
- Lecture 14. Analysing poetry
- Lecture 15. Analysing the language of drama
- Lecture 16. Concepts and techniques in analysing fiction

Workload

1 x 2 hr lecture per session for 16 sessions. Lecture notes will cover synopsis of important readings as well as topical discussions and sample analysis of data.

Method of assessment

Two assignments, each containing no more than 1000 words (excluding the data) analysing a piece of discourse in English.

Suggested readings

- Black, Elizabeth. (2005) *Pragmatic Stylistics*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Cameron, Deborah. (2001) *Working with Spoken Discourse*. Sage Publications.
- Cameron, Deborah. and Ivan Panović (2014). *Working with Written Discourse*. Sage Publications.
- Culpeper, Jonathan. and Michael Haugh (2014) *Pragmatics and the English Language*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Fox, Kate. (2014) *Watching the English*. Hodder & Stoughton.
- Gavins, Joanna. (2013) *Reading the Absurd*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Semino, Elena. (1997) *Language and World Creation in Poems and Other Texts*. Routledge.
- Short, Mike. (1996) *Exploring the Language of Poems, Plays and Prose*. Addison Wesley.