

Course: ENG-103,Introduction to Linguistics

Credit Hours: 3

Level: Semester 1

Course Introduction

Language is central to human experience. This course provides a comprehensive overview of language origin, evolution of language as human faculty, and traces the history of English language in order to provide an idea how languages developed. The part on the history of the English language covers story of English language from beginning to the present. The course also includes a brief introduction of the history of linguistics with special reference to various schools of thought that have contributed significantly to the development of Linguistics.

Course Objectives

This course aims to:

- Give students a comprehensive overview of language as human faculty.
- Familiarize students with different stories about the origin of language.
- Provide students an overview of how a language develops through a comprehensive exposure to English language development.
- Enable students to identify major theoretical formulations in the development of linguistics.

CLO No	Course Learning Outcomes	Bloom Taxonomy
CLO-1	Students will be able to understand key concepts about language development and its history.	C2 (Understand)
CLO-2	To examine theoretical foundations in the development of language.	C4 (Analyze)
CLO-3	To explain different phases in the development of English language	C2 (Understand)

Course Contents

S. No	Weekly Course Distribution
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Week 1	Language Origin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language as a divine gift • Natural sound source theories • Social interaction source theories • The Physical adaptation sources • The genetic source
Week 2	Speech vs Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primacy of speech • Speech vs. Writing • Origin of writing • Types of writing systems
Week 3	Language as Human Faculty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Language vs animal communication • Characteristics of Language: Design features • Animals lack language: A controversy
Week 4	Language Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a language family? • Language Families in the World: A Brief Overview
Week 5	Historical Linguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is linguistics? • What is historical linguistics? • What does historical linguistics study? (phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic changes) • Methods of Language reconstruction
Week 6	Old & Middle English Periods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grammatical categories • Inflections • Grammatical gender
Week 7	Renaissance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old, Middle, and Modern English (grammatical categories) • Shakespeare
Week 8	18th Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major characteristics of the age • Problem of refining and fixing the language

Week 9	Mid Term
Week 10	18th Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Swift's proposal ● Johnson's Dictionary ● Grammarians ● Vocabulary formation ● Introduction of passives
Week 11	19th Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Important events and influences ● Sources of new words ● Pidgins and Creoles
Week 12	19th Century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spelling reforms ● Development of Dictionary ● Verb-adverb combination
Week 13	English Language in America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Americanism ● Archive Features ● Difference between the British and American English
Week 14	Development of Modern Linguistics Modern Linguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emergence of Modern Linguistics: Saussure ● Structuralism
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● American Structuralism ● The Prague School
Week 16	Contemporary Approaches to Linguistics
Week 17	Functional Linguistics
Week 18	End Term Exams

Recommended Readings

- Bough, A.C. & Cable, T. (2002). *A History of English Language*. London: Prentice Hall, Inc.

- Campbell, L. (2001), 'The history of linguistics', in M. Aronoff and J. Rees-Miller (eds), *The Handbook of Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 81-104.
- Joseph, J.E. (2002), *From Whitney to Chomsky: essays in the history of American linguistics*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Yule, George. (2006). *The Study of Language*: 4th/ 5th Edition, Cambridge University Press.