



UNIwersYTET
IM. ADAMA MICKIEWICZA
W POZNANIU

Introduction to evolutionary linguistics

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

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|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Study programme English Linguistics: Theories, Interfaces, Technologies | | Didactic cycle 2024/25 | |
| Speciality - | | Subject code 15ELIS.12K.16345.24 | |
| Organizational unit Faculty of English | | Lecture languages English | |
| Study level First-cycle programme | | Course type Obligatory | |
| Study form Full-time | | Block Major subjects | |
| Education profile General academic | | | |
| Subject coordinator | Piotr Gąsiorowski | | |
| Lecturer | Piotr Gąsiorowski | | |
| Period Semester 2 | Activities and hours • Lecture: 30, Graded credit | | Number of ECTS points 2 |

Goals

| Code | Goal |
|------|---|
| C1 | Making the students familiar with evolutionary models of language change and linguistic divergence. |
| C2 | Emphasising the role of interdisciplinary approaches to questions of language origins and the history of languages. |
| C3 | Expanding the students' knowledge about varieties of English, their emergence and history. |
| C4 | Making the students aware of the importance of preserving the world's linguistic heritage, maintaining linguistic diversity, and protecting endangered languages. |
| C5 | Developing the ability to evaluate critically both scientific information and one's own knowledge in a dynamically expanding area of research. |

Subject learning outcomes

| Code | Outcomes in terms of | Learning outcomes | Examination methods |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Knowledge - Student: | | | |
| W1 | understands the concepts of language internal diversity, language change and linguistic innovation | ELI_K1_W01, ELI_K1_W02, ELI_K1_W06 | Test |
| W2 | understands the notion of "evolutionary process" and the basic mechanisms of evolution | ELI_K1_W01, ELI_K1_W02, ELI_K1_W06 | Test |
| W3 | understands the significance of language contact, multilingualism, and their consequences | ELI_K1_W03 | Test |
| W4 | is familiar with language classification and the typological variability of the world's languages; knows the basics of historical linguistics and an overview of language families | ELI_K1_W02, ELI_K1_W06 | Test |
| W5 | understands the role of biological and evolutionary factors in explaining the origins of language | ELI_K1_W04, ELI_K1_W07 | Test |
| Skills - Student: | | | |
| U1 | understands the significance of language contact, multilingualism, and their consequences | ELI_K1_U07 | Practical credit (performance analysis) |
| Social competences - Student: | | | |
| K1 | appreciates the need to save linguistic diversity and to protect endangered languages | ELI_K1_K07, ELI_K1_K09, ELI_K1_K10 | Practical credit (performance analysis) |

Study content

| No. | Course content | Subject learning outcomes | Activities |
|-----|--|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. | An evolutionary approach to language variation, development and origins; common features of evolutionary processes | W2, K1 | Lecture |
| 2. | Mechanisms of language change (language replication, sources of linguistic novelty, the propagation and fixation of innovations) | W1, W5 | Lecture |

| No. | Course content | Subject learning outcomes | Activities |
|-----|---|----------------------------|------------|
| 3. | The internal diversity of English (dialects, sociolects, linguistic variants and competition between them, the emergence of national norms) | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 4. | Language differentiation and the origin of groups of related languages (e.g. Latin as the ancestor of the Romance group) | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 5. | Language contact, multilingualism, and their consequences (borrowing, hybridisation, pidgin and creole languages) | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 6. | English as a global language and its impact on other languages | W3, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 7. | The ecology of language: language extinction, the protection of endangered languages | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 8. | Language families and methods of linguistic reconstruction | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 9. | Questions of common descent and the chronological horizon of reconstruction; the concept of a "Proto-World" language | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 10. | Hypotheses concerning the origin of the human language faculty; language as a system of social communication | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 11. | Human and non-human animal communication: similarities and differences | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |
| 12. | The biological and evolutionary underpinnings of the language faculty | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, U1, K1 | Lecture |

Additional information

| Activities | Teaching and learning methods and activities |
|------------|--|
| Lecture | Lecture with a multimedia presentation of selected issues, Discussion, Case study, Research method (scientific inquiry), Audio and/or video demonstrations |

| Activities | Credit conditions |
|------------|---|
| Lecture | <p>Course credit is awarded throughout the semester based on assignments, in-class participation, reading the indicated literature, and attendance. Receiving 60% of course credit is necessary for a passing grade.</p> <p>excellent (bdb; 5.0): a very good knowledge of issues concerning the origin and evolution of language, family relationships among languages and mechanisms of language change; a highly developed awareness of linguistic diversity, of the existence of endangered languages and the need to protect them; knowledge of the relevant terminology and the ability to use it in speech and writing; very good skills in presenting and discussing academic/research contents.</p> <p>very good (+db; 4.5): 1-2 competencies acquired at a level slightly below the excellent.</p> <p>good (db; 4.0): good level of acquiring all or almost all of the competencies.</p> <p>satisfactory (+dst; 3.5): 1-2 competencies acquired at a sufficient level.</p> <p>sufficient (dst; 3.0): (merely) sufficient level of acquiring all or almost all the competencies.</p> <p>failing (ndst; 2.0): insufficient acquisition of all or nearly all the competencies.</p> |

Literature

Obligatory

1. Fitch, W. Tecumseh. 2010. The evolution of language. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Hurford, James R. 2007. Language in the light of evolution 1: The origins of meaning. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3. Millar, Robert McColl. 2012. English historical sociolinguistic. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
4. Trask, R. Larry, Robert McColl Millar. 2015. Trask's historical linguistics (3rd edition, revised by Robert McColl Millar). London, New York: Routledge.

Calculation of ECTS points

| Activities | Activity hours* |
|---|--------------------|
| Lecture | 30 |
| Preparation for classes | 3 |
| Preparation for the assessment | 4 |
| Reading the indicated literature | 6 |
| performing tasks on the e-learning platform | 7 |
| Other | 10 |
| | |
| Student workload | Hours 60 |
| Number of ECTS points | ECTS 2 |

* academic hour = 45 minutes

Efekty uczenia się dla kierunku

| Kod | Treść |
|------------|--|
| ELI_K1_K07 | The graduate is ready to participating in cultural and scientific life and using its various forms |
| ELI_K1_K09 | The graduate is ready to active action to protect endangered languages |
| ELI_K1_K10 | The graduate is ready to supporting linguistic and cultural diversity |
| ELI_K1_U07 | The graduate can competently analyze the causes and course of specific linguistic phenomena, primarily using various IT tools |
| ELI_K1_W01 | The graduate knows and understands the place and importance of linguistics in relation to other sciences and the subject and methodological specificity of linguistics |
| ELI_K1_W02 | The graduate knows and understands basic topics, concepts and issues related to linguistic research, especially in English |
| ELI_K1_W03 | The graduate knows and understands theories, methodologies, general and specific issues in the field of English linguistics |
| ELI_K1_W04 | The graduate knows and understands content, form and functions of basic terminology in the field of linguistics and information technology |
| ELI_K1_W06 | The graduate knows and understands the complex nature of language and the dilemmas of modern civilisation |
| ELI_K1_W07 | The graduate knows and understands basic concepts and issues regarding advanced information and communication methods and tools |