

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	:	Psycholinguistics
Course Code	:	ENG266
Recommended Study Year	:	2 nd & 3 rd Year
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
Category in Major Programme	:	Required course
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

Psycholinguistics is the psychological study of language: the study of the structures and processes which underlie human ability to learn and speak a language. It is a subject area which links psychology and linguistics. This course will study what is happening within each individual when language is learned, processed and comprehended. The course will offer a practical orientation in order to relate theory to students' possible career options in teaching, speech therapy or related disciplines.

Aims

1. To introduce the central concepts of psycholinguistics;
2. To demonstrate the importance of these concepts in developing an understanding of language learning and language acquisition;
3. To provide an appropriate foundation for students who wish to pursue research in this subject area.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be provided with information about the central concepts of psycholinguistics and the empirical methods used to accrue this information;
2. Students will also be able to recognize the relevance of this knowledge to careers in teaching, research and therapy.

Indicative Content

1. Linguistics and Psychology:
Mental grammar, the Chomsky approach, phrase structure rules, the lexicon, deep structure, transformational rules and interpretation, universal grammar and the rationalist/empiricist view of language acquisition.
2. Language and the Brain:
Lateralization, brain maturation and the critical period in learning. Language loss: aphasia, dyslexia, methods of investigating the brain and language.
3. Language comprehension and memory:
Theories and models: words, sentences and texts. Schema theory, discourse processing, lexical, pragmatic, syntactic and semantic meaning.
4. Child language acquisition:
Vocalization, one word utterances, morpheme acquisition order, developing grammar, imitation and correction in learning, Universal Grammar.
5. Second language learning:
Social and psychological factors, critical period, survey of relevant teaching approaches.

Teaching Method

Lectures and tutorials

Measurements of Learning Outcomes

Class discussion, individual presentations, research essay, written exam.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment: 40% (1 essay, class presentations and contributions)

Final Examination: 60%

Required Readings

Steinburg, D.D. & Sciarini, N.V., *An introduction to psycholinguistics*, UK: Pearson Educational, 2006.

Sharp, A., *Psycholinguistics, materials and methods*, Lingnan University, 2005.

Supplementary Readings

- Aitchison, J., *Language and Mind*, London: Penguin Books, 1992.
- Aitchison, J., *The Articulate Mammal*, London: Unwin Hyman, 1998.
- Altman, G.T.M., *Psycholinguistics: critical concepts in psychology*, New York: Routledge, 2002.
- Carroll, D.W., *Psychology of language*, Belmont, Cal: Brooks Cole, 1986.
- Field, J., *Psycholinguistics: a resource book*, New York: Routledge, 2003.
- Field, J., *Psycholinguistics: the key concepts*, New York: Routledge, 2003.
- Scovel, T., *Psycholinguistics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Sharp, A., *Reading comprehension and text organization*, New York: Edwin Mellen, 2003.
- Steinburg D.D. & Nagata, H. & Aline, D.P., *Psycholinguistics: language, mind and world*, 2001.
- Taylor, I.&Taylor, M., *Psycholinguistics: learning and using language*, Englewood Cliffs NJ: Prentice Hall, 1990.
- Video: *Horizon: Language Acquisition*. (BBC publications)
- Child language acquisition (video samples)