

Course Title	Digital English Linguistics: Innovation and Development
Course Code	DES501
Recommended Study Term	Term 1
No. of Credits	3
Mode of Tuition	Sectional
Class Contact Hours	3 hours per week
Category	Required
Prerequisite	Nil
Co-requisite	Nil
Exclusion	Nil
Exemption Requirement	Nil

Brief Course Description

This course will introduce students to the emergent interdisciplinary field of digital linguistics, with a focus on English language. Digital linguistics, at the intersection of traditional linguistics, information technology, and social sciences, offers cutting-edge methods to investigate digitised linguistic data. Students will be taught a variety of quantitative and qualitative research tools drawn from digital communication, multimodal studies, sociolinguistics, and social semiotics. They will be encouraged to think critically about the impact of digital technologies on human communication and social organisation, as well as the challenges they pose to linguistic research.

Aims

This course aims to:

1. Provide a comprehensive review of main research within the field of digital linguistics.
2. Explain its developments in the last thirty years.
3. Introduce to students the research questions, guiding frameworks, central concepts in the field.
4. Equip students with the skills of analysing digitally mediated (multimodal) English texts.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain key research concepts and methods of digital linguistics.
2. Analyse the changes that the English language has been undergoing when moved to the digital contexts.
3. Apply research concepts and methods to the study of digitally mediated English texts.
4. Conduct preliminary ethnographic research about individual users' practices of using English and other resources online.