

Course Title	Corpus Linguistics: Fundamentals and Practice
Course Code	DES504
Recommended Study Term	Term 2
No. of Credits/Term	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 provides a comprehensive understanding of corpus linguistics, a research approach that involves the systematic analysis of large collections of textual data (corpora). The course covers the fundamental concepts and techniques of corpus linguistics, including corpus creation, annotation, and analysis. Students gain practical skills in using specialised software tools for corpus-based research, such as concordancers and statistical analysis programmes. They learn how to extract linguistic patterns, study language variation, and explore discourse phenomena using corpus data. The course also explores applications of corpus linguistics in various fields, including language teaching, lexicography, and sociolinguistics. Through a combination of theoretical knowledge and hands-on practice, students develop the necessary skills to conduct corpus-based research projects.

Aims

1. To introduce the basic concepts, principles and methodology in corpus linguistics;
2. To familiarise students with major corpus resources and tools;
3. To develop students' ability in corpus-based language studies; and
4. To introduce students to contemporary research in the field of corpus linguistics, including its application in settings such as language teaching, lexicography and sociolinguistics.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify key concepts, principles and basic methodology in corpus linguistics (LO1);
- Build and annotate corpora to answer specific research questions (LO2);
- Use tools and software for corpus linguistics research (LO3);
- Apply basic methods and methodologies, including linguistic techniques and statistical techniques for corpus description/and corpus analysis (LO4);
- Demonstrate knowledge of corpus studies as a method in language teaching, lexicography and sociolinguistics (LO5);
- Conduct systematic research, discovering and formulating hypotheses that are descriptively, explanatorily and theoretically adequate (LO6).