

Course Title	Special Topics in Digital Linguistics: Cognitive Linguistics: Theories & Applications in the Digital Age
Course Code	DES609A
Year of study	Term 1 or 2
No. of credits	3
Mode of Tuition	Sectional approach
Class Contact Hours	3 hours per week
Category	Elective
Prerequisites	Nil
Co-requisites	Nil
Exclusions	Nil
Exemption requirements	Nil

Brief Course Description

This course offers an in-depth exploration of cognitive linguistics, an interdisciplinary study of language and human cognition within the field of applied linguistics. Cognitive linguistics views language as a mental phenomenon and approaches the study of language based on the general principles and mechanisms of human cognition, as informed by the fields of cognitive science and cognitive psychology. In this course, students will be introduced to key concepts and theories in cognitive linguistics including polysemy, categorization, conceptual metaphor and metonymy, and cognitive approaches to English grammar. The course also discusses the fundamental differences in working between the human mind and artificial intelligence (AI) and highlights applications of cognitive linguistics in branches of applied linguistics such as second language teaching and (critical) discourse analysis in the contemporary digital age.

Aims

The course aims:

1. To introduce students to the key concepts and principles of cognitive linguistics;
2. To familiarize students with theories and empirical research on cognitive linguistics and their practical applications in language-related domains in present-day digital contexts;
3. To equip students with methods for studying certain aspects of cognitive linguistics;
4. To develop students' skills in applying theoretical knowledge of the intersections between language and human cognition and methods of cognitive linguistics to practical situations.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Describe the fundamental concepts, theories, and methods in cognitive linguistics (LO1);
- Identify mechanical differences in operation and outcomes between human cognition and artificial intelligence (AI) (LO2);
- Analyze the forms and functions of words and grammatical structures in Modern English using cognitive approaches to semantics and syntax (LO3);

- Conduct an empirical research project on a selected topic in cognitive semantics and/or cognitive approaches to English grammar (LO4);
- Apply cognitive linguistics to addressing language-related issues and problems in the real world with the aid of digital technologies (LO5).