

Module title: Interaction and Discourse

Module code: LIN5204

Credit value: 15

Level: 5

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

Language is central to spoken and written interaction. In this module, students will learn about the major theoretical frameworks that have been developed to analyze how spoken interaction is structured, how different kinds of texts communicate social and pragmatic meaning, and the ways in which larger social and cultural structures are reflected in patterns of language use. The module will introduce students to such frameworks as Politeness and Interpersonal Pragmatics, Conversation Analysis, Narrative Analysis, and (Critical) Discourse Analysis. Students will have the opportunity to conduct qualitative analyses on a variety of different spoken and written texts, and will develop the basic skills necessary for future research in qualitative sociolinguistics.

Module Aims

1. To introduce students to the main areas of research in the field, and the major theoretical and methodological frameworks that have been developed in this area of research;
2. To allow students to develop their own analytical skills set, providing them with a range of tools for identifying meaningful patterns in complex linguistic data;
3. To provide students with the knowledge necessary to evaluate sociolinguistic argumentation, and to reinforce their ability to draw on empirical data when building a compelling interpretation;
4. To provide students with the ability to reflect critically on their own and others' interpretations;
5. To provide students with the foundation of knowledge necessary for future academic study in this area.

Learning Outcomes

Academic Content:

A1 Demonstrate an appreciation and understanding of the major theoretical and methodological frameworks used in the field of qualitative sociolinguistics.

A2 Compare and contrast the different methodological frameworks discussed, and develop the ability to determine which approach is most appropriate for which research context/question.

A3 Critically evaluate empirical evidence, and use it to build compelling interpretations and arguments.

A4 Develop the capacity to understand subtle patterns of interactional and discursive variation, and describe how these relate to other areas of linguistics research and scholarship.

Disciplinary Skills – able to:

B1 Reflect critically on the role of language in interpersonal dynamics.

B2 Demonstrate an awareness of how theoretical assumptions undergird methodological choices, and an ability to apply these choices appropriately to data.

B3 Extrapolate patterns from complex data sets.

B4 Describe the relationship between language use and broader social formations.

Attributes:

C1 Research Capacity: students will produce analyses that are grounded in evidence; they will apply their knowledge of linguistics and the analytical skills acquired in earlier module to unfamiliar problems; will work individually and also in collaboration with others; will acquire a substantial body of new knowledge and develop a strong sense of intellectual integrity. As a result, graduates will be able to extend their understanding through academic enquiry.

C2 Engage Critically with Knowledge: students will acquire and apply their knowledge in a rigorous way; they will learn to connect information and ideas within their field of study; they will use writing for learning and reflection; and they adapt their understanding to new and unfamiliar settings.

C3 Clarity of Communication: students will develop effective spoken and written English through oral presentations and a range of writing tasks; they will learn to explain and argue clearly and concisely; they will learn to apply different forms of communication in different social professional and cultural settings; and they will be able to use a range of communication technologies.

Activity Hours

Activity Type	Time spent (hours)
Lecture	11
Seminar	11
Guided independent study	128
Total	150

Indicative Reading List

- Conversation Analysis and Discourse Analysis - Woofit (Sage, 2005)
- Conversation Analysis: An Introduction - Sidnell (Blackwell, 2010)
- The Pragmatics of Politeness - Leech (Oxford, 2014)
- Approaches to Discourse - Schiffrin (Blackwell, 1994)
- Working with Spoken Discourse - Cameron (Sage, 2001)
- Working with Written Discourse - Cameron & Panovic (Sage, 2014)
- Living Narrative - Ochs & Capps (Harvard, 2001)
- Analyzing Narrative - De Fina & Georgakopoulou (Cambridge, 2011)
- Studies in Language and Social Interaction
- Discourse & Society
- Discourse & Communication
- Critical Discourse Studies