

Module title: Applying Linguistics in the Real World

Module code: LIN5206

Credit value: 15

Level: 5

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module introduces students to the many uses of Linguistics in real-world situations and professions. Although Linguistics is a small and specialised field, it is a crucial element in very diverse professions. The module will integrate talks given by representatives from a range of professions, with readings and assessments about how to apply linguistics in those professions. Examples of professional uses of Linguistics include: speech and language therapy for children and adults with communication disorders, forensic linguistics in criminal investigations and courtrooms, dialect coaching for film and theatre, uses of syntax, semantics, and computational linguistics in IT and search engines such as Google, pronunciation in the media, communication in medicine, policing, and other institutional contexts, and language awareness in school teaching, journalism, and public services. The module offers students a unique opportunity to gain direct exposure to professionals from a range of careers, and to learn how to apply their technical knowledge to real-world problems.

Module Aims

1. To introduce students to the very diverse range of professional contexts in which linguistic expertise can be relevant, even crucial;
2. To teach students how to apply knowledge of language and linguistics beyond academia to address real-world problems;
3. To provide a context for applying linguistic concepts to real-world challenges and situations;
4. To provide students with direct network exposure to professionals from diverse careers.

Learning Outcomes

Academic Content:

- A1 Demonstrate a broad understanding of how theoretical knowledge in linguistics can be applied to the real world;
- A2 Evaluate current applications of linguistics across diverse professions, and reflect critically on further such applications;
- A3 Interact with professionals from a range of careers in order to integrate knowledge gained on the degree with ideas for potential career directions.

Disciplinary Skills – able to:

- B1 Think creatively about how theoretical knowledge can be used to solve practical problems.
- B2 Understand their own career prospects and interests, and the constraints and potential in applying academic knowledge appropriately in real-world and professional domains.
- B3 Critically reflect on ways in which linguistics expertise could better support and inform real-world situations.

Attributes:

C1 Clarity of Communication: students will develop effective spoken and written English through weekly discussions, 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.

C2 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 diverse professional and real-world contexts; will work individually and also in collaboration with others; As a result, graduates will be able to extend their understanding gained through academic enquiry in the real world, via many potential career paths.

C3 Engage Critically with the Real World: students will apply their knowledge of linguistics to major real-world problems in a rigorous way; they will learn to connect information and ideas within their field of study to common problems in society today and learn to adapt their understanding to new and unfamiliar settings.

Activity Hours

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

Indicative Reading List

This module involves a series of workshops with representatives from different professional sectors such as the BBC, speech and language therapists, dialect coaches, IT professionals, journalists, and teachers. There is therefore not a single set of texts that is relevant across the module, but rather readings specific to different professional sectors. A few illustrative readings are provided below:

Cotter, Colleen. (2010). *News Talk: Investigating the Language of Journalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Coulthard, M. and Johnson, A (2010) *A Handbook of Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence*, London, Routledge
- Davies, A. & Elder, C. (eds.) (2004) *Handbook of Applied Linguistics*, Oxford/Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Gibbons, J. (2003). *Forensic Linguistics: An introduction to language in the Justice System*. Blackwell.
- Christopher D. Manning, Prabhakar Raghavan, and Hinrich Schütze (2008). *Introduction to Information Retrieval*. Cambridge University Press
- Wright, J. A. and M. Kersner. (2004). *A Career in Speech and Language Therapy*. Metacom Education.