Syllabus

Linguistics

“Research Methods in Linguistics”

Frankfurt Summer School
2019

05 – 30 August 2019
Basic Research Methods and Data-oriented Methods

Module 1: Basic Research Methods in Linguistics (4 CP)

Language is an essential feature of all humans that distinguishes us from all other known species. The study of human languages is not only the study of a central social skill but it also provides a unique window to the human mind.

In this course students will get an overview of the basic toolkit in linguistics research: presenting and interpreting linguistic data, linguistic argumentation, and writing like a linguist. We will analyse datasets from different areas of linguistics (phonology, morphology, syntax) and practice interpreting data from languages we do not speak. We will also discuss how our own introspective judgments and examples in the literature can be supplemented by working with informants.

Week 1

6 August (9.00-12.30):
Introduction: Analyzing different levels of linguistic data in structuralist linguistics (Janina Radó)

7 August (9.00-12.30):
Phonology: Abstract linguistic knowledge as complex rule systems (Janina Radó)

8 August (9.00-12.30):
Linguistic argumentation 1: Constructing a linguistic argument from your own data analysis (Janina Radó)

Week 2

12 August (9.00-12.30):
Syntax foundations: Constituent structure and phrase structure (Iverina Ivanova)

13 August (9.00-12.30):
Advanced syntax: In-depth analysis of selected phenomena (Frank Richter)

14 August (9.00-12.30):
Combining different levels of analysis: The case of negative polarity items (Frank Richter)

15 August (9.00-12.30):
Linguistic argumentation 2: Considering alternative analyses (Janina Radó)
Module 2: Data-oriented Methods in Linguistic (4 CP)

Traditional linguistic research was based on laborious manual data collection, or, especially in the second half of the 20th century, on the introspective evaluation of artificially created examples by individual researchers. This has radically changed with the advent of large electronic resources and the adaptation or development of statistical and computational tools for linguistic analysis. This course will focus on methods for collecting and analysing larger sets of data for linguistic research. We will discuss corpus and experimental methods to study questions in grammar and language interpretation, and we will use various techniques from the computational toolkit of modern linguistics to visualize processes and results. Students will have the opportunity to work with corpus linguistic and statistical tools to study language use, language change, and translation. The course will comprise lectures, group work and problem sets.

The lectures will be held in English in the IG-Farben building - Campus Westend.

The coordinators of the programme is Prof. Dr. Manfred Sailer.

**Week 3**

19 August (9.00-12.30):
Corpus linguistics: Basics
(Ulrike Schneider)

20 August (9.00-12.30):
Corpus linguistics: Structuring and analyzing data
(Ulrike Schneider)

21 August (9.00-12.30):
Corpus linguistics: Statistical methods
(Frank Richter)

22 August (9.00-12.30):
Corpus methods at work: Using corpus data to support a theoretical hypothesis
(Janina Radó)

**Week 4**

26 August (9.00-12.30):
Experimental methods: Basics
(Janina Radó)

27 August (9.00-12.30):
Experimental methods: Sample (psycho-)linguistic experiments and statistical methods
(Janina Radó)

28 August (9.00-12.30):
Experimental methods: Interpreting experimental data
(Janina Radó)

29 August (9.00-12.30):
Methodological comparison: group projects
(Janina Radó)
30 August (9.00-12.30):
Final exam
(Janina Radó)

Lecturers

Iverina Ivanova
https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/63596210/Iverina_Ivanova

Iverina Ivanova is a PhD candidate at the Department of English and American Studies of Goethe University. Her research interests are in the fields of English Syntax, Discourse Analysis, Academic Writing, and NLP. She is currently doing an empirical study on the coherence mechanisms present in academic abstracts and articles in the fields of Linguistics and Computational Linguistics. With this research Iva aims to provide insights into the genre-specific characteristics that help the texts behave as unified wholes both on local and global level.

Janina Radó
Janina Radó is a Research Assistant at the Department of English and American Studies of Goethe University. She has used psycholinguistic and corpus linguistic methods to investigate phenomena at the interface of syntax, semantics and discourse, such as the interpretation of quantifier scope, word order variation in English, and negative polarity items. She is also interested in methods to assess students’ academic writing skills.

Frank Richter
https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/50472399/Frank_Richter

Frank Richter is instructor in English Linguistics at the Department of English and American Studies of Goethe University. He is interested in constraint-based semantics, semantic processing, and the corpus linguistic and psycholinguistic investigation of negative polarity items and multi-word expressions. He has also worked on the logical foundations of constraint-based grammar.

Ulrike Schneider
https://www.english-linguistics.uni-mainz.de/personen/dr-phil-ulrike-schneider/

Ulrike Schneider works as a Research Assistant in English linguistics at the University of Mainz. Her research interests include usage-based and functional grammar, cognitive linguistics, grammatical variation and change as well as statistical modelling of language processing and change.


**Literature**

Course materials: The lecturers will use slides and/or handouts. Slides will be made available after each lecture. No additional materials will be required.

**General Information on the track Linguistics**

The course comprises 56 contact hours (16*3.5 hours). Upon successful completion, 8 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) points will be awarded for the two course modules. A single ECTS point is defined as the equivalent of 25 to 30 hours of student workload. This includes class hours, additional preparations for class activities, readings, assignments as well as final assessments.

**Attendance:**
Participants have to attend at least 80% of the classes.

**Evaluation/Exam:**
There will be two exams of about 45 minutes (multiple choice, short answers). The first exam will cover the material of weeks 1 and 2, the second exam the material of weeks 3 and 4. More than 50% of the points need to be reached to pass the exam. A grade can be obtained.