

Foundations of Linguistics

Master Language Science and Technology

Vorlesung 4 SWS ECTS-Punkte: 6

Lecturers: Annemarie Verkerk, Noortje Venhuizen, Vera Demberg, Bernd Möbius

Mo 8:30–10:00, Mi 8:30–10:00, MS Teams “[124709] Foundations of Linguistics”

Link to Team:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3a432e5f37ada34ce896ac392ec217c046%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=59b2deb6-2d09-4111-8b60-3031f03d71a5&tenantId=67610027-1ac3-49b6-8641-ccd83ce1b01f>

First class: 02-11-2020

Last class: 03-02-2021

Examination deadlines: exam on 03.02.2021

Moodle key: Linguistik

Description

The goal of the course is to introduce the students to basic notions, terminology, problems and ideas from the different areas of linguistics that are covered in the course: morphology and syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and phonetics.

Morphology and syntax: Morphology and syntax is what makes a sentence different from a random collection of words. We study the structure that they impose on utterances by focusing on common types of inflection in the nominal and verbal domain, parts of speech, the distinction between heads, arguments, and adjuncts, and argument types and semantic roles, taking a cross-linguistic perspective.

Semantics: The study of linguistic meaning has a long history, going back centuries. In this section of the course, we will study the fundamentals of semantic theory, including predicate logic and lambda calculus, various applications in computational semantics, as well as recent vector-based approaches to distributional semantics.

Pragmatics: We will cover basic notions in pragmatics (starting from Paul Grice) up to current models for pragmatic reasoning such as the rational speech act model. Furthermore, we will cover basic notions of textual coherence and cohesion, including Centering Theory as well as modern neural implementations thereof, and models for coherence relation classification.

Phonetics: This section of the course introduces the principles underlying the classification of speech sounds and how they are organized in sound systems. It will emphasize the properties of spoken (as opposed to written) language in connected speech and discuss the basic conditions and constraints of human speech production and perception.

Requirements

Abschlussklausur with regular take-home assignments during the semester. Successful completion of the assignments is required for admission to the final exam.

Course Schedule

Due to the corona virus situation, the winter semester of 2020 at the UdS has been postponed to start in the week of 02-11-2020.

Date	class no.	Topic	Detailed topic	Lecturer
02.11.20	1	Introduction	-	Verkerk
04.11.20	2	Morphology & Syntax	Morphology I: Word formation	Verkerk
09.11.20	1	Morphology & Syntax	Morphology II	Verkerk
11.11.20	2	Morphology & Syntax	Syntax I: Word classes	Verkerk
16.11.20	1	Morphology & Syntax	Syntax II: Heads, dependents, and beyond	Verkerk
18.11.20	2	Morphology & Syntax	Syntax III: Grammatical relations	Verkerk
23.11.20	1	Semantics	Intro: Syllogisms, FOL	Venhuizen
25.11.20	2	Semantics	Entailment + Exercise 1	Venhuizen
30.11.20	1	Semantics	Ex1 discussion + λ -Calc.	Venhuizen
02.12.20	2	Semantics	Type Theory + Exercise 2	Venhuizen
07.12.20	1	Semantics	Ex2 discussion + outlook	Venhuizen
09.12.20	2	Pragmatics	Pragmatics: Grice	Demberg
14.12.20	1	Pragmatics	Pragmatics: Rational Speech Act model and exercises	Demberg
16.12.20	2	Pragmatics	Coherence and Cohesion: Centering Theory	Demberg
04.01.21	1	Pragmatics	Coherence: Discourse relations	Demberg
06.01.21	2	Pragmatics	Exercises	Demberg
11.01.21	1	Phonetics	Introduction: speech sounds, connected speech	Möbius
13.01.21	2	Phonetics	Phonology: sound system, distinctive features	Möbius
18.01.21	1	Phonetics	Prosody	Möbius
20.01.21	2	Phonetics	Acoustic Phonetics I	Möbius
25.01.21	1	Phonetics	Acoustic Phonetics II	Möbius
27.01.21	2	revisions I	-	Verkerk & Möbius
01.02.21	1	revisions II	-	Venhuizen & Demberg
03.02.21	2	Exam	-	Verkerk