

Syllabus

Linguistic Anthropology

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1. Course Description

- a. Title of a Course: *Linguistic Anthropology*
- b. Pre-requisites: *Postgraduate students (MA)*
- c. Course Type (compulsory, elective, optional): *Compulsory*
- d. Abstract

This course is designed for MA students interested in the social dimension of language. More specifically, Linguistic Anthropology focuses on the cultural importance of language and speaking as an essential part of our everyday life socialization. Language and culture are both complex phenomena that can both function at supranational, national and local levels. The objective of this course is to introduce students to some theoretical issues and concepts related to different topics of Linguistic Anthropology. Students will investigate the inter-dynamics of language and culture, identity, ideologies. Moreover, the course will outline the socio-political dimension of a speech community in language contact situations: what it means to be a citizen, how linguistic solidarity can contribute to group belonging, what outcomes of language(s)/culture(s) contact there are and how these may affect cultural/ethnic self-perception.

The course will likewise provide insights into ethnographic approaches to linguistic fieldwork. More specifically, students will learn and understand how linguistic anthropologists conduct research, what topics they investigate, what questions they ask, what methods they utilize and what conclusions they may draw with what implications.

2. Learning Objectives

- *To familiarize students with the main topics/concepts of Linguistic Anthropology*
- *To teach students to be able to distinguish different definitions of and approaches to language and culture*
- *To insightfully demonstrate the main methodological instruments utilized by linguistic anthropologists*

3. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will have

- *Learnt how to critically examine various definitions/notions in Linguistic Anthropology*
- *Learnt how socio-political, cultural and economic forces can affect language*
- *Learnt what a fieldwork is and will have practiced various ethnographic techniques*

4. Course Plan

1. Introduction: What is Linguistic Anthropology? The socio-cultural dimension of language: examples and discussion.

2. Speech community. Critical examination of the notion of speech community, sociopolitical approach to speech community, group membership.

3. Language contact. Language(s) and culture(s) in contact: reasons, procedure, outcomes.
4. Language ideologies and attitudes. Discussion of main features of language ideologies and how they can influence language attitudes and language shift.
5. The interplay of language and identity. Processes how identity is formed and constructed through language (practice, indexicality, ideology and performance). *Mid-term exam.*
6. Ethnography: methods and interpretation. Discussion of the main approaches and methods utilized in Linguistic Anthropology.
7. Ethnic/minority language use. Discussion of the language maintenance/shift process: socio-economic status and power.
8. Language socialization. Examination and understanding of cultural outcomes. *Final exam.*

5. Reading List

a. Required

Ottenheimer, H. J. (2013). *The anthropology of language: an introduction to linguistic anthropology*. Belmont: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

b. Optional

Ahearn, L. M. (2012). *Living language: an introduction to linguistic anthropology*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell

Deckert, S., and Vickers, C. H. (2011). *An introduction to sociolinguistics: society and identity*. London; New York: Continuum.

Holmes, J. and N. Wilson (2017). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. London: Routledge.

6. Grading System: 10-point scale

7. Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment

c. <i>Mid-term exam</i>	30%
d. <i>Presentation of an article</i>	30%
e. <i>Final exam</i>	40%

8. Methods of Instruction

Interactive lecture

9. Special Equipment and Software Support (if required)

Computer (or a lap-top), a projector and speakers