



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

LINN20, Linguistics: Theoretical Approaches to Language Development, 7.5 credits

*Lingvistik: Teoretiska aspekter på språkutveckling, 7,5
högskolepoäng*

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-02-25 to be valid from 2013-02-25, autumn semester 2013.

General Information

The course is offered as an elective component of the MA programme in Language and Linguistics. It is also offered as a free-standing course and can be included as part of a first- or second-cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

The course can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the teacher and the students. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.

Main field of studies

Language and Linguistics with
specialization in General Linguistics

Language and Linguistics with
specialization in Phonetics

*Depth of study relative to the degree
requirements*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle
course/s as entry requirements

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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to account for some key theories of language acquisition and place them in a historical context
- be able to understand the arguments for and against different theories and describe how different critical positions have emerged in response to each other
- be able to account for the most important language phenomena that 2-4 influential theories of language development have highlighted
- be able to account for some common research methods employed in current research on language acquisition

Competence and skills

- be able to independently analyse a language sample on the basis of different theories of language development
- be able to formulate and identify typical research issues of a certain theory of language development and interpret them from different theoretical perspectives

Judgement and approach

- be able to critically evaluate whether a certain linguistic theory can explain a certain language phenomenon
- be able to assess linguistic texts and relate them to theories on which they are based.

Course content

The course deals with some influential theories of language acquisition and language development (such as behaviourism, nativism, social-pragmatic theory, functional theories, generativism, connectionism), their background and main representatives. Major emphasis is placed on the student's ability to recognise the main traits of a certain theory, to understand the structure of different theories and to identify the most important issues in current theory discussions. The course addresses theories of language acquisition with a bearing of the language development from infant to adult and comprises theories of both first and second language acquisition and bi- and multilingualism. Students are to apply common methods in language acquisition research in practice in order to analyse language data, in the form of experimental studies and corpus linguistics, for example. The course consists of lectures and practical exercises.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures and 2-3 compulsory exercises.

Assessment

The assessment is based on 2-3 exercises during the course and a final written assignment.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course students must have 90 credits, of which 60 credits must be in Linguistics or a language subject or the equivalent, and English B from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree. For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.
2. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.

Subcourses in LINN20, Linguistics: Theoretical Approaches to Language Development

Applies from H12

1301 Linguistics: Theoretical Approaches to Language Development, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction