

**Course Title: Introduction to Language Studies**

**Course Code: EL 423**

**Semester: 7**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**Pre-Requisites Course Requirements: 12 Years of Education**

### **Learning Outcomes**

This course aims to:

1. Give students a comprehensive overview of language as human faculty.
2. Familiarize students with different stories about the origin of language.
3. Provide students an overview of how a language develops through a comprehensive exposure to English language development.
4. Enable students to identify major theoretical formulations in the development of linguistics.

### **Contents**

#### **Unit-I**

- 1.1 Language Origin
  - 1.1.1 Language as a divine gift
  - 1.1.2 Natural sound source theories
  - 1.1.3 Social interaction source theories
  - 1.1.4 The Physical adaptation sources
  - 1.1.5 The genetic source
- 1.2 Speech vs Writing
  - 1.2.1 Primacy of speech
  - 1.2.2 Speech vs. Writing
  - 1.2.3 Origin of writing
  - 1.2.4 Types of writing systems
- 1.3 Language as Human Faculty
  - 1.3.1 Human Language vs animal communication
  - 1.3.2 Characteristics of Language: Design features
  - 1.3.3 Animals lack language: A controversy
- 1.4 Language Families
  - 1.4.1 What is a language family?
  - 1.4.2 Language Families in the World: A Brief Overview
- 1.5 Historical Linguistics
  - 1.5.1 What is linguistics?
  - 1.5.2 What is historical linguistics?
  - 1.5.3 What does historical linguistics study? (phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic changes)
  - 1.5.4 Methods of Language reconstruction
- 1.6 Old & Middle English Periods
  - 1.6.1 Grammatical categories
  - 1.6.2 Inflections
  - 1.6.3 Grammatical gender

## Unit-II

- 2.1 Renaissance
  - 2.1.1 Old, Middle, and Modern English (grammatical categories)
  - 2.1.2 Shakespeare
- 2.2 18<sup>th</sup> Century
  - 2.2.1 Major characteristics of the age
  - 2.2.2 Problem of refining and fixing the language
  - 2.2.3 Swift's proposal
  - 2.2.4 Johnson's Dictionary
  - 2.2.5 Grammarians
  - 2.2.6 Vocabulary formation
  - 2.2.7 Introduction of passives
- 2.3 19th Century
  - 2.3.1 Important events and influences
  - 2.3.2 Sources of new words
  - 2.3.3 Pidgins and Creoles
  - 2.3.4 Spelling reforms
  - 2.3.6 Development of Dictionary
  - 2.3.6 Verb-adverb combination
- 2.4 English Language in America
  - 2.4.1 Americanism
  - 2.4.2 Archive Features
  - 2.4.3 Difference between the British and American English
- 2.5 Modern Linguistics
  - 2.5.1 Emergence of Modern Linguistics: Saussure
  - 2.5.2 Structuralism
  - 2.5.3 American Structuralism
  - 2.5.4 The Prague School
- 2.6 Contemporary Approaches to Linguistics
- 2.7 Functional Linguistics

### Teaching and Learning Strategies:

Following teaching strategies to be adopted:

1. Class Discussion
2. Reading and analyzing the text through interactive sessions.
3. Class presentations.
4. Group Discussions
5. Lectures, seminars and tutorials.

### Assignments:

Two assignments, one before midterms and one after midterm, to be submitted. The students are advised to get their topics approved by the teacher. And there is a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. (Please consult HEC policy on Plagiarism).

### Assessment and Examination:

Sr. No.	Elements		Details
1	Midterm Assessment		It takes place at the mid-point of the semester.
2	Formative Assessment		It is continuous assessment. It includes: classroom participation, attendance, assignments and presentations, homework, attitude and behavior, hands-on-activities, short tests, quizzes etc.
3	Final Assessment		It takes place at the end of the semester. It is mostly in the form of a test, but owing to the nature of the course the teacher may assess their students based on term paper, research proposal development, field work and report writing etc.

### Suggested Readings

- Bough, A.C. & Cable, T. (2002). *A History of English Language*. London: Prentice Hall, Inc.
- Campbell, L. (2001), 'The history of linguistics', in M. Aronoff and J. Rees-Miller (eds), *The Handbook of Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 81104.
- Joseph, J.E. (2002), *From Whitney to Chomsky: essays in the history of American linguistics*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Yule, George. (2006). *The Study of Language*: 4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Cambridge University Press.