Discourse Analysis in English

6 creds., 1st semester

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Aims and Objectives

This course intends to show that knowledge of language, language use and language processing is central to all aspects of human communication and social interaction. The aim will be to focus on text and discourse as units of communication and on discourse analysis as an efficient tool to achieve a comprehensive and interdisciplinary view of the linguistic, cognitive, situational and cultural factors which interact in the production, understanding and interpretation of discourse. The final goals will be the application of discourse analysis to different research approaches and to the foreign language learning and teaching context.

When students have successfully completed this course, they should be able to:

- •Identify central concepts of linguistic research in the fields of discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, genre analysis and applied linguistics.
- Explore the relation between cognitive patterns, linguistic choices, text and discourse structure, and the socio-cultural implications based on the analysis of a variety of texts and discourse genres.
- Describe language at various levels of analysis: interpersonal, personal, institutional or educational, through qualitative analysis of empirical data.
- Explore issues related to ideology and the socio-cognitive aspects of discourse.
- Develop ways of research to improve teaching practices by using authentic language material in the classroom.
- Explore how students can better their language skills through exposure to different types of discourse.



Course Program

- 1. Discourse analysis and linguistics
- 2. Discourse as structure and process
- 3. Research lines and research methods
- 4. Analysing oral and written discourse
- 5. Investigating discourse genres
- 6. Discourse analysis and EFL teaching and learning

Required Readings

Students will be provided with a course reader before the start of the course.

Methodology

Classes will consist of lectures, discussions and presentations. Strong emphasis will be put on the analysis of authentic material by students, and examples of the potential of discourse analysis for EFL teaching will be provided and studied in detail.

Assessment

Students will present short papers and hold round tables on the assigned readings; these sessions will be followed by a general discussion of the main points of the readings. On completion of the course, students will be required to hand in a written version of the paper presented in class.

The students will be evaluated on a combination of their participation in class, oral presentations and written assignments. There will be a final paper or project.

Participation and oral presentation: 30%

Written Assignments: 30%

Final paper: 40%



Bibliography and Resources

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http://www.usal.es/~codis/en index.php

http://www.cal.org/resources/

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http://www.beaugrande.com/

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