

<i>Name of Course</i> <i>Psycholinguistics</i>	
Lecturer Teaching Assistant Nikolay Ratchev, PhD.	
Type of course Mandatory	Degree of education bachelor
Year of Education First	Semester Second
Credits 3	Hours 30 (lectures)
Form of education regular	Language of education Bulgarian
Evaluation A written exam	

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to:

- Understand the logic of psychological studies of language;
- Have knowledge of basic psychological theories and studies of the linguistic processes;
- Become aware of the need for empirical methods to study the features of language and speech;
- Develop their critical skills in the domain of psychological study of language.

Course Description

Psycholinguistics is the science of the psychological study of language. Language has been for a long time a subject-matter of the science of linguistics. As a result, many of its important aspects have been studied. However, language is a psychological phenomenon. Hence, a comprehensive scientific study of language requires research on the psychological mechanisms involved in language processing.

The course thus offers an introduction to the logic and methods of studying the cognitive processes related to linguistic processing. The role of the experimental method is stressed. Various empirical results are discussed and the models built upon them to explain linguistic processing are considered. The main topics of the course are speech perception, processing of word, sentences, and discourse, and language production.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Topic Outline

1. Psycholinguistics: An overview.

Universal features of linguistic systems. The study of language in different scientific fields. Language processes and linguistic knowledge. The importance of cognitive processes in language processing and the need for psychological study of language. The foundation of psycholinguistics as a field of scientific research. Topics of interest in psycholinguistics. Psycholinguistics and cognitive science.

2. Logic and methodology of psycholinguistic research.

The popular concept of science. Theoretical and operational definitions in science. The structure of well-developed sciences. The structure of social and behavioral sciences. Methodology of scientific research in psycholinguistics. Reporting and empirical study in psycholinguistics.

3. Basic linguistic principles.

Basic grammatical concepts: phonetics, morphology, syntax. Linguistic productivity. Phrase structure. Transformational grammar. Explicit and implicit linguistic knowledge.

4. Psychological mechanisms in language comprehension and production.

Human information processing capacities and language processing. Modal model of memory. Serial versus parallel processing. Bottom-Up and Top-Down approaches to processing. Modularity. Automatic and controlled processing.

5. Perception of speech.

The structure of speech. Perception of spoken language. Perception of isolated speech segments. Perception of continuous speech. Perception of written language. Research methods in studying speech perception.

6. The internal lexicon.

Dimensions of word knowledge. Organization of the internal lexicon and the representation of meaning in human memory. Network models of semantic memory. Hierarchical models. Spreading activation models. Critique of network models.

7. Lexical access

Retrieval of information from the internal lexicon. Models of lexical access. Factors that influence lexical access. Research methods in the study of lexical access.

8. Sentence comprehension and memory.

Cognitive processes and structures taking part in sentence comprehension and memory. Syntactic parsing. Comprehending ambiguous sentences. Comprehending figurative language. Internal representations and memory of sentences.

9. Discourse comprehension and memory.

Cognitive processes and structures taking part in discourse comprehension and memory. Local and global discourse structure. Strategies for establishing discourse coherence. Psychological models of discourse comprehension and memory. Research methods.

10. Production of language

Formulating and executing linguistic plans. Slips of the tongue. Pragmatic aspects of language interactions. Personal and institutional factors influencing language interaction.

11. Analogies between language and music

Language and nonverbal forms of abstraction. Language and music as hierarchically organized symbolic systems. Musical syntax and grammar. Musical discourse. Comparison between cognitive processing of linguistic and musical units. Explicit and implicit musical knowledge.

Main references:

- Герганов, Е. (1987). *Памет и смисъл*. София: Наука и изкуство. [Gerganov, E. (1987). *Memory and meaning*. Sofia: Nauka i izkusvto.]
- Carroll, D. W. (2004). *Psychology of language* (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson.

Recommended references

- Clark, H. H. & Clark, E. V. (1977). *Psychology and Language. An introduction to psycholinguistics*. New York, NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.
- Klatzky, R. L. (1975). *Human memory: Structures and processes*. San Francisco: W.H. Freeman & Co. (Russian edition published 1978.)
- Lindsay, P. H. & Norman, D. A. (1972). *Human information processing: An introduction to psychology*. New York, NY: Academic Press.
- Reed, S. K. (2000). *Cognition: Theory and applications* (5th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Sloboda, J. A. (1985). *The Musical Mind: The cognitive psychology of music*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Sternberg, R. J. (1999). *Cognitive Psychology* (2nd ed.). Orlando, FL: Harcourt.