



Postgraduate Program
2023 - 2024



Semester Two	Higher Diploma
Course Title:	Introduction to Pragmatics
Lecturer	Dr Rashwan Ramadan Salih
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Course Coordinator	
Email	
Office Hours	8:30 – 11:30 Sundays

Course Description/Overview:

This 14-week course is designed to provide postgraduate students with a comprehensive understanding of pragmatics, a subfield of linguistics that examines how context influences the interpretation of language in communication. Through a combination of theoretical discussions, practical applications, and case studies, students will explore various pragmatic phenomena such as implicature, speech acts, deixis, politeness strategies, and cultural variations in communication. Emphasis will be placed on critical analysis and application of pragmatic theories in real-world contexts.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course student will be able to:

- Define key terminology and concepts, such as conversational principles; implicatures; presupposition; speech acts; context; information-structure; discourse coherence.
- Discuss, explain, and illustrate linguistic pragmatic analyses and methodology.
- Critically evaluate research in pragmatics and apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios.
- Foster an understanding of the role of pragmatics in intercultural communication and multilingual contexts.

Course Outline:

Week 1-2: Introduction to Pragmatics

- Definition of pragmatics
- Historical overview of pragmatics
- Basic pragmatic concepts: context, inference, implicature
- Pragmatic competence vs. grammatical competence

Week 3-4: Speech Acts

- Austin's speech act theory
- Performative verbs and felicity conditions
- Illocutionary vs. perlocutionary acts
- Speech act classification: assertives, directives, commissives, expressives, declaratives

Week 5-6: Conversational Implicature

- Grice's Cooperative Principle
- Maxims of conversation: quantity, quality, relation, manner
- Types of implicature: scalar implicature, generalized conversational implicature
- Relevance Theory

Week 7-8: Politeness and Pragmatic Variation

- Brown and Levinson's politeness theory
- Face-threatening acts and politeness strategies
- Cross-cultural differences in politeness norms
- Sociopragmatics: variation in pragmatic norms across speech communities

Week 9 Midterm Exam

Week 10-11: Deixis and Reference

- Deictic expressions: personal deixis, spatial deixis, temporal deixis
- Indexicality and reference
- Anaphora and cataphora
- Frame-based approaches to deixis

Week 12-13: Applications of Pragmatics

- Pragmatics in professional communication: business, healthcare, education
- Pragmatics in legal discourse
- Pragmatic analysis of media discourse
- Multimodal pragmatics: gestures, facial expressions, and their role in communication

Week 14: Review and preparations for the final exam

Assessment:

- Critical analysis essays on assigned readings (15%)
- Case study presentations on pragmatic phenomena in real-world contexts (10%)
- Quizzes 5%
- Midterm exam 20%
- Final exam 50%

Methods of Teaching and Students' obligation:

The method of teaching in this course will be a combination of theoretical and practical approaches to English syntax. The module will be delivered by reading materials available on Syntax in Linguistic studies, synchronous Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions and directed independent study. Students will be encouraged to identify and share relevant resources and are expected to extend and enhance the knowledge and understanding they acquire by regularly consulting materials relating to the course.

Reading List:

- Nagy, I.K., 2015. *An Introduction to the Study of Pragmatics*. Scientia.
- Griffiths, P. 2006. *An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press Ltd

Reviewed by: