The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Lexical Semantics A - 10824

Last update 28-09-2023

<u>HU Credits:</u> 2

<u>Degree/Cycle:</u> 1st degree (Bachelor)

<u>Responsible Department:</u> School of Language Sciences

<u>Academic year:</u> 0

<u>Semester:</u> 2nd Semester

<u>Teaching Languages:</u> Hebrew

<u>Campus:</u> Mt. Scopus

<u>Course/Module Coordinator:</u> Prof. Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal

<u>Coordinator Email:</u> ebas@mail.huji.ac.il

<u>Coordinator Office Hours:</u> By appointment

<u>Teaching Staff:</u>

Prof Elitzur Bar-Ashersiegal

<u>Course/Module description:</u>
The lexicon is the source of meaningful units in language. In this course we tackle two main questions:
1. What is the right way to characterize the meaning of the lexical units, and how do they combine to form larger semantic units, such as the sentence.

2. Does the Lexicon have a grammar? and if so, what is it?

In order to answer these questions we will discuss issues pertaining to the essence of word meaning,
drawing on literature from linguistics, psychology and philosophy.
Among other things we address questions such as: what is the relation between conceptual categories expressed by words and reality? What is known to us about the structure of conceptual categories expressed by words?
We explore the relation between semantic content of conceptual categories and the grammatical properties of the words which express these categories.

<u>Course/Module aims:</u>
1. Acquaintance with central theories in Lexical Semantics
2. Examining the relation between the semantics and the grammatical properties of nouns, adjectives and verbs.
3. Learn about the derivatives of such discussion on questions pertaining to etymology - the study of semantic development of lexical items.

<u>Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</u>
- Thorough understanding of the main questions pertaining to the structure of the lexicon
- Understand the relation between the Lexicon and the other components of linguistic knowledge.
- Get to know the properties of different lexical categories and examine their unique characteristics.
- Identify different types of historical developments - Etymology

<u>Attendance requirements(%):</u>
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and class discussion. Synchronous+asynchronous teaching, if necessary

Course/Module Content:
  1. Introduction: meaning and semantics, the Lexicon, Lexicography, Lexicology
2. Meaning relations, relations between words
3. Semantic change: types and reasons
4. Ontology and parts of speech
5. Nouns
6. Verbs
7. Adjectives
8. Prepositions
9. Concepts and meaning: the relation between world and language, conceptual categories, grammatical categories

Required Reading:
 Will be provided from the list below:

גד-בן עמי צרפתי, העברית בראי הסמנטיקה, ירושלים: האקדמיה ללשון העברית, תשס"א

Murphy, Lynn. Lexical Meaning. Cambridge University Press

 Additional Reading Material:
  Clark, Eve and Herbert Clark (1979) "When Nouns Surface as Verbs," Language 55. (optional)

Croft, William (1994) "The Semantics of Subjecthood," in M. Yaguello, ed., Subjecthood and Subjectivity: The Status of Subjects in Linguistic Theory," Ophrys .

Horn, Larry (2002) "Uncovering the un-word; a study in lexical pragmatics," Sophia Linguistica 49. (excerpts)

Jackendoff, Ray (1983) Semantics and Cognition, MIT Press. (excerpts)

Kearns, Kate (2000) "Aspectual Classes of Events," from Kearns, Kate, Semantics, St.
 Martins.

Löbner, Sebastian (2002) Understanding Semantics Arnold. Chapter 1

Murphy, Lynne (2010) Lexical Meaning, Cambridge University Press. Chapter 8

Geoffrey Nunberg and Annie Zaenen (1992) "Systematic Polysemy in Lexicology and Lexicography" From Hannu Tommola, Krista Varantola, Tarja Salmi-Tolonen and

Jürgen Schopp, eds., *Proceedings of Euralex II*, University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland.

Rappaport Hovav, M. (2008) "Lexicalized Meaning and the Internal Temporal Structure of Events", in Susan Rothstein, ed., *Crosslinguistic and Theoretical Approaches to the Semantics of Aspect*, John Benjamins.

Rosch, Eleanor (1978) "Principles of Categorization," from Rosch and Lloyd, eds. *Cognition and Categorization*, Erlbaum.

Tenny, Carol L. 1992. "The Aspectual Interface Hypothesis," In Ivan Sag and Anna Szabolcsi (eds)., *Lexical Matters*, CSLI.

Edward Wisniewski (2010) "On Using Count Nouns, Mass Nouns, and Pluralia Tantum: What Counts?," in: Francis Jeffry Pelletier, ed., *Kinds, Things, and Stuff*. Oxford University Press.

Grading Scheme:
  Written / Oral / Practical Exam 70 %
  Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 30 %

Additional information:
  NA