Syllabus

LEXICAL SEMANTICS - 36612

Last update 14-02-2016

HU Credits:  2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: linguistics

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Malka Hovav

Coordinator Email: malkahovav@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 16:30

Teaching Staff:
Prof Malka Rappaporthovav
Course/Module description:
The course deals with theories of word meaning. In the first part of the course we discuss foundational issues regarding the nature 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? In the second part of the course we focus more on grammatical data. We explore the relation between semantic content of conceptual categories and the grammatical properties of the words which express these categories. We explore the grammatical properties of nouns, adjectives and verbs and the relation between the semantic nucleus of the lexical categories and the most common grammatical properties of these categories.

Course/Module aims:
To become familiar with the basic issues in lexical semantics

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Read basic literature in lexical semantics; apply basic terms in lexical semantics and solve problems in lexical semantics

Attendance requirements(%):
100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Reading, class discussion, data analysis

Course/Module Content:

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS
(Subject to change)

Week 1 Introduction; componential analysis; classical approach to concepts

Reading: "Meaning Components," Lübner.

Week 2-3 Prototypes and Family Resemblance Categories
Reading: Rosch

Linguistic application: Denominal verbs in English: Handout
Optional Reading on Denominal Verbs in English: Clark and Clark

Week 4 Homonymy and Polysemy
Handout

Reading: Nunberg and Zaenen

Week 5 Conceptual categories and Linguistic categories
Handout

Week 6 1. The Mass-Count Distinction
Reading: Wisniewski

Week 7 The Semantics of Adjectives
Reading: Murphy, chapter 8. Horn, excerpts

Week 8-9 Theories of Event Conceptualization I
Localist and Causal theories
Readings: Jackendoff, excerpts, Croft

Weeks 10 - 11 Theories of Event Conceptualization II: The Aspectual Approach
Readings: Kearns, Tenny

Week 12 Theories of Event Conceptualization III: The Scalar Approach

Week 13 Lexicalization Patterns

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


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


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

**Lübner, 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.


**Additional Reading Material:**

**Course/Module evaluation:**

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 90 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

**Additional information:**