



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Topics in the study of Information Structure - 41837

Last update 19-09-2016

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: linguistics

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Pavel Ozerov

Coordinator Email: Pavel.Ozerov@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tue 12-13

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Pavel Ozerov

Course/Module description:

The field of Information Structure studies how information communicated by linguistic means is arranged in a given context, and how its arrangement interacts with various pragmatic-semantic factors. In this course we will critically survey the existing (primarily functional) approaches in the field. We will examine whether and how these views address vast cross-linguistic data available in modern research, and will investigate diverse phenomena from particular languages.

Course/Module aims:

Acquaintance with the current approaches in the field of Information Structure and ability to carry out linguistic analysis of relevant language-specific devices

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

carry out a linguistic analysis of Information Structure in discourse, taking into account the overall discourse structuring and interactional characteristics of text

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures, reading, class exercises, individual project and its presentation

Course/Module Content:

- basic notions: topic, focus, comment, presupposition, common ground, assertion
- pragmatic particles, relevant syntactic structure (e.g. cleft) and other devices
- the interaction between discourse structure and information structure
- interaction in discourse and information structure

Required Reading:

- Krifka, Manfred and Renate Musan. 2013. Information Structure: Overview and linguistic issues. In: Krifka and Musan (eds.) *The Expression of Information Structure*. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.
- LAMBRECHT, KNUD. 1994. *Information Structure and Sentence Form: Topic, Focus, and the Mental Representations of Discourse Referents*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (selected parts)

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- Matić, Dejan, and Daniel Wedgwood. 2013. "The Meanings of Focus: The Significance of an Interpretation-Based Category in Cross-Linguistic Analysis." *Journal of Linguistics* 49 (1): 127-163
- MASCHLER, YAEL. 2015. 'Word Order in Time: Emergent Hebrew (NS)V/VNS Syntax.' In *Studies in Language and Social Interaction*, edited by Arnulf Deppermann and Susanne Günthner, 27:201-236. Amsterdam/ Philadelphia: John Benjamins
- SASSE, HANS-JÜRGEN. 1987. 'The Thetic/Categorical Distinction Revisited.' *Linguistics* 25: 511-580
- STALNAKER, ROBERT. 2002. 'Common Ground.' *Linguistics and Philosophy* 25 (5): 701-721.
- DU BOIS, JOHN W. 2007. 'The Stance Triangle.' In *Stancetaking in Discourse: Subjectivity, Evaluation, Interaction*, edited by Robert Englebretson, 139-182. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- TBA

Additional Reading Material:

-TBA

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 30 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 50 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: