The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

Syllabus

Topics in the study of Information Structure - 41837

Last update 19-09-2016

HU Credits: 2

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)
- Mati, 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): 127163
- 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: