

LING E2025

Historical of Linguistics and Historical Linguistics.

Core Course

1. Aims:

The aim of this course is to touch students the history of Language studies from the ancient time to the end of the 20th century.

To Study the methods and theories of the diachronic analysis, on the basis of the evolution of Sinhala/ Tamil/ English

2. Learning outcomes:

History of Linguistics After completing this course, the students will be able to,

Understanding that linguistics is an evolution of ancient grammatical traditions.

Recognize the two main traditions of grammar: India and Greek.

Understanding linguistics as a mixture of those grammatical traditions.

Understand that linguistics theories change from to time.

Historical Linguistics

At the end of this course, students will be able to,

Explain the mechanism of language change.

Describe the types of language change.

Point out the sounds changes and their results which affect the language systems of Sinhala/ Tamil/ English

Describe the concept of the family of language with special reference to Indo-European/ Dravidian family.

Interpret the Sinhala/ Tamil/ English language as belong to a particular family or sub family of language

3. Contents:

History of Linguistics

i. Ancient Indian grammatical tradition:

The beginning of language studies in the Vedic period with special attention to 'Astadhyayi' of 'Panini' and language studies of the grammarians such as Bhartruhari,

- ii. Ancient European Grammatical tradition:
Language studies in ancient Greece and their influence on grammarians Rome,
- iii. The development of language studies in the renaissance Period.
- iv. Introducing Sanskrit to western scholars and development of Historical and Comparative Linguistics in the 19th century,
- v. Emergence of Modern Linguistics and Linguistics in the 20th century.

Historical Linguistics

i. Mechanism of Language change

Sound change

Borrowing

Analogy

ii. Types of language change

Sound change

Phonemic change

Grammatical change

Syntactic change

Lexical change

4. Assessments:

End of the year examination: Three hour question paper.

5. Recommended Reading:

ජයසේකර, ආනන්ද. ජයසේකර, වික්‍රා. *නූලනාත්මක වාග්විද්‍යාව*, කොළඹ: ලේක්හවුස් ඉන්වෙස්ට්මන්ට්,

කරුණාතිලක, ඩබ්ලිව්. එස්., *ඓතිහාසික වාග්විද්‍යා ප්‍රවේශය*, කොළඹ: එම්. ඩී. ගුණසේන සහ සමාගම,

Allen, A.J. (1953). *Phonetics in Ancient India*. London.

Lehmann, W.P. (1967). *A Reader in nineteenth century historical Indoeuropean Linguistics*, Bloomington.

Nettleship, H. (1886). *The study of grammar among the Romans in the first century A.D.* NettJournal of philosophy, London.

Robins, R.H. (1951). *Ancient and Medieval grammatical theory in Europe*. London.

Robins, R.H. (1979). *A Short History of Linguistics*. Longman, London.

Vachek, J. (1966). *The Linguistics School of Prague*, Bloomington.

Wulf, De M. (1909). *History of medieval Philosophy*. London.