

LING E3015

Psycholinguistics and Semantics

Core Course

1. Aims:

To understand the relationship between language and mind, and explain how language process functions in human brain, analyze the process of language acquisition and development. To introduce the nature of meaning and give a knowledge of theories related to semantics.

2. Learning Outcomes:

Psycholinguistics

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

Describe the interrelationship between language and mind.

Explain language processing in human mind.

Describe process of language acquisition and language development.

Semantics

At the end of the course the student will be able to,

Define meaning and to understand the significance of meaning in practical usage.

Understand 'Meaning' in defining morpheme, word, sentence and utterance.

Understand the difference between the logical nature of meaning and the pragmatic meaning.

Understand non linguistics factors in interpreting the utterance meaning.

To apply different theories to make a semantic analysis on the given data.

3. Contents:

Psycholinguistics

i. Explaining the background of Psycholinguistics.

The human community and non-human communication.

The relationship between language and the brain, Language process and language acquisition.

ii. Different Psycholinguistics hypotheses. Applying the knowledge of

psycholinguistics and studying the problems in different social categories.

iii. Theories and ideas introduced by different Psycholinguistics such as Chomsky, Skinner and Lenneberg.

Semantics

- i. History of semantic studies.
- ii Definitions of meaning
- iii Semantic units of language
- iv Utterance meaning and sentence
- v Principles of logical semantics
- vi Principle of pragmatics

4. Assessment:

End of the year examination: three hour question paper.

5. Recommended Reading:

Psycholinguistics

Bloom, L.M.(1970).*Language development: Form and Function in emerging grammars.* Cambridge, Mass: M. I. T. press.

Brown, R., (1973).*A First Language: The Early Stages.* Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University press.

Chomsky, Noam.(1986). *Knowledge of Language, Its Nature, Origins, and Use,* New York: Praeger

Hockett, C.F. (1958).*A Course in Modern Linguistics.*

Lenneberg, E.H.(1967).*Biological Foundation of Language*

O' Grady, W.Dobrovolsky, M. Katamba, (1997).*Contemporary*

Predeaux - Psycholinguistics

Wasteron,N.(1987).*Prosodic Phonology.*

වික්‍රමසිංහ, ඩී. එම්. රාජපක්ෂ, ආර්.එම්.ඩබ්.නානා උපර්ජන යාග්චිද්‍යා 6,7සඟරා, වාග්චිද්‍යා අධ්‍යයනාංශය, කැලණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලය.

Semantics

Chomsky,N, (1972).*Studies on Semantics in Generative Grammar.* The Hague, Mouton.

Cole, P. (1978). *Syntax Semantics and Pragmatics*. New York : Academic Press.

Creswell, M. (1973). *Logic and Language*. London : Methuen

Levinson, S.C. (1983). *Pragmatics CUP*