

ELG356 Semantics and Pragmatics

Level: 3

Credit Units: 5 Credit Units

Language: ENGLISH

Presentation Pattern: EVERY JULY

Synopsis:

ELG356 looks at the study of meaning in human languages, namely in terms of grammatical semantics and pragmatics. In grammatical semantics, students will be introduced to the approach of studying meaning by focussing on literal meaning and how patterns of meaning are organized within a language in terms of sound structure, grammatical structure and meaning structure. Another approach to the study of meaning is to ask how language allows us to communicate: how do we use linguistic expressions to communicate our understanding of the world? Students will be introduced to the speech act theory in learning about linguistic expressions and how they convey meaning in utterances and in particular contexts.

Topics:

- Introduction to Meaning.
- Meaning in linguistics.
- Word (Lexical) meaning.
- Sentence meaning.
- Sentences and truth.
- Meaning and context.
- Functions of language.

Textbooks:

John I. Saeed: Semantics (eText) (4th ed) Wiley-Blackwell
ISBN-13: 9781118430262

Learning Outcome:

- Demonstrate ways that thought, concepts and meaning are connected
- Illustrate core concepts in the study of meaning
- Examine the types of meaning (e.g., semantic and pragmatic meaning) that arise in naturally occurring language data
- Critically analyse naturally occurring language
- Formulate predicate logic translations of natural language sentences and vice versa
- Appraise the ways in which speakers use language for particular social functions beyond the literal meaning of the expressions they use

Assessment Strategies (Evening Class):

Components	Description	Weightage Allocation (%)
Overall Continuous Assessment	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 1	20
	TUTOR-MARKED ASSIGNMENT 2	30
Overall Examinable Components	Written Exam	50
Total		100