The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
First Term of 2020-21

Course code and title

LING2008 Linguistic Argumentation II

Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Instructor: Dr. Margaret Lei

Teaching Assistant: TBC

Lecture time and venue

Tuesdays, 11:30am-1:15pm; T.Y. Wong Hall, Ho Sin-Hang Engineering Building (TYW LT)

Tutorial time and venue

Tuesdays, 1:30pm-2:15pm; T.Y. Wong Hall, Ho Sin-Hang Engineering Building (TYW LT)

Course overview

This course enhances students' sensitivity to the structure of linguistic argumentation. It will engage students in critical reflections on the character of linguistic units at various levels of grammar, as well as systematic descriptions and analyses of language phenomena using linguistics concepts. Through critical discussion of selected cases, students will explore the ways in which one may arrive at generalizations based on linguistic evidence, as well as how different analyses may apply to a given linguistic phenomenon.

Learning outcomes

Students are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

(a) A clear understanding of the basic units and categories of language and an ability to define these units and categories in both English and Chinese;

(b) An ability to describe the structure of argumentation of a linguistics article, and respond to the ideas contained in it;

(c) An interest to observe the languages encountered in daily life, and some skills in tapping into one's own native language competence;

(d) A basic command of the use of reference grammars for descriptive facts about a language;

(e) An enhanced ability to write clear, well-organized and coherent expository papers on language, making use of techniques such as formulating thesis statements, paragraphing and self-editing;

(f) An enhanced knowledge of some of the typical errors of advanced Chinese learners of English.

List of topics

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
Module 1: Topics in Linguistics IV ▪ Defining linguistic units, categories and structures in English and Chinese	▪ Morpheme and word ▪ Word classes (parts of speech) ▪ Constituent structure ▪ Cross-linguistic differences between English and Chinese
Module 2: Topics in Linguistics V ▪ Linguistic argumentation based on different types of empirical evidence	▪ Sources of linguistic evidence ▪ Types of empirical evidence: child language, language disorders, language variation and change
Module 3: Academic discourse	▪ Use of academic literature and reference grammars ▪ Research methods
Module 4: Grammar and style	▪ Typical errors of advanced Chinese learners of English

Learning activities

Lecture		Interactive tutorial		Assigned readings		Writing assignments		Web discussions		Quiz		Project / Essay	
(hr) in | out class		(hr) in | out class		(hr) in | out class		(hr) in | out class		(hr) in | out class		(hr) in | out class		(hr) in | out class	
26	0	13	0	0	39	0	45	0	2	0	0	0	0
M	NA	M	NA	NA	M/O	NA	M/O	NA	O	NA	NA	NA	NA

M: Mandatory activity in the course; O: Optional activity; NA: Not applicable

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Weight
Three writing assignments (25% for each assignment: outline 5% + paper 20%)	75%
Presentation of reading summaries	15%
In-class discussion of readings and mini-quizzes	10%

Note: In case face-to-face teaching becomes impossible due to the pandemic, lectures and in-class activities will be conducted online.

Grade descriptors for assessment

Grade	Overall course
A	- Recognize almost all the linguistic concepts and their supporting arguments covered in the course - Recognize and identify a good range of common errors made by Chinese learners of English - Excellent in applying linguistic knowledge and knowledge about academic discourse in writing - Excellent in evaluating linguistic papers with a lot of critical insights
A-	- Recognize most of the linguistic concepts and their supporting arguments covered in the course - Recognize and identify a good range of common errors made by Chinese learners of English - Good in applying linguistic knowledge and knowledge about academic discourse in writing - Good in evaluating linguistic papers with some critical insights
B	- Recognize some linguistic concepts and their supporting arguments covered in the course - Recognize and identify some common errors made by Chinese learners of English - Satisfactory in applying linguistic knowledge and knowledge about academic discourse in writing - Satisfactory in evaluating linguistic papers
C	- Recognize relatively few linguistic concepts and their supporting arguments covered in the course - Recognize and identify relatively few common errors made by Chinese learners of English - Weak in applying linguistic knowledge and knowledge about academic discourse in writing - Weak in evaluating linguistic papers

D	▪	Recognize very few linguistic concepts and their supporting arguments covered in the course
	▪	Recognize and identify very few common errors made by Chinese learners of English
	▪	Very weak in applying linguistic knowledge and knowledge about academic discourse in writing
	▪	Very weak in evaluating linguistic papers
F	▪	Recognize almost no linguistic concepts and their supporting arguments covered in the course
	▪	Recognize and identify almost no few common errors made by Chinese learners of English
	▪	Extremely weak in applying linguistic knowledge and knowledge about academic discourse in writing
	▪	Extremely weak in evaluating linguistic papers

Recommended learning resources

A. Basic background texts

Aarts, Bas. 2001. *English Syntax and Argumentation*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave.

Haegeman, Liliane M. V. 2006. *Thinking Syntactically: A Guide to Argumentation and Analysis.* Oxford: Blackwell.

Larson, Richard K. and Kimiko Ryokai. 2010. *Grammar as Science*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

B. Reference books

Chao, Yuen Ren. 1968. *A Grammar of spoken Chinese*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Hockett, Charles. 1958. *A Course in Modern Linguistics*. New York: Macmillan.

Huddleston, Rodney, Geoffrey K. Pullum, and in collaboration with Laurie Bauer. 2002. *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Huang, C.T. James, Audrey Li and Yafei Li. 2009. *The Syntax of Chinese*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Li, Charles and Sandra Thompson. 1981. *Mandarin Chinese: A Functional Reference Grammar.* Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.

McCawley, James D. 1988. *The Syntactic Phenomena of English*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Palmer, Frank. 1984. *Grammar.* 2nd ed. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Quirk, Randolph, Sidney Greenbaum, Geoffrey Leech, and Janand Svartvik. 1985. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*. London: Longman.

Feedback for evaluation

A mid-term course evaluation and an end-of-term course evaluation will be conducted. Students are welcome to give feedback to the course teacher at any time in person or through emails.

Course schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Sept 8 (Tue)	**Module 1: Topics in Linguistics IV**	<u>Topics in Linguistics IV</u>
2	Sept 15 (Tue)	**Module 1: Topics in Linguistics IV** **Module 3: Academic discourse**	**Required readings** Hockett (1958), Lu (1979), McCawley (1992)
3	Sept 22 (Tue)	**Module 1: Topics in Linguistics IV** Outline #1 due on Sept 22, Tue, 23:59	**Other recommended readings** Aarts (200), Tai (1982)
4	Sept 29 (Tue)	**Module 1: Topics in Linguistics IV** **Module 3: Academic discourse**	
5	Oct 6 (Tue)	**Module 1: Topics in Linguistics IV**	
6	Oct 13 (Tue)	**Module 3: Academic discourse** Paper #1 due on Oct 13, Tue, 23:59	
7	Oct 20 (Tue)	**Module 2: Topics in Linguistics V** Outline #2 due on Oct 20, Tue, 23:59	<u>Topics in Linguistics V</u>
8	Oct 27 (Tue)	**Module 2: Topics in Linguistics V**	**Required readings** Fromkin (1988), :Lee (2019), Klima and Bellugi (1966)
9	Nov 3 (Tue)	**Module 2: Topics in Linguistics V** **Module 4: Grammar and style**	**Other recommended readings** Aronoff (1981), Tang (1992)
10	Nov 10 (Tue)	**Module 2: Topics in Linguistics V** Paper #2 due on Nov 10, Tue, 23:59	
11	Nov 17 (Tue)	**Module 2: Topics in Linguistics V** Outline #3 due on Nov 17, Tue, 23:59	
12	Nov 24 (Tue)	**Module 2: Topics in Linguistics V**	
13	Dec 1 (Tue)	**Module 4: Grammar and style**	
14	Dec 8 (Tue)	Paper #3 due on Dec 8, Tue, 23:59	

Contact details for instructor and TA

Instructor	
Name:	Dr. Margaret Lei
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Email:	margaret@cuhk.edu.hk
Office hours:	By appointment

Teaching Assistant	
Name:	
Office location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Office hours:	

Details of course website

LING2008 on Blackboard
https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk/

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.