Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: English Language and Literature
Course Unit Title: Generative Syntax 1
Course Unit Code: 15EJEJ35
Name of Lecturer(s): Prof. Sabina Halupka-Rešetar, PhD
Type and Level of Studies: Bachelor
Course Status (compulsory/elective): elective
Semester (winter/summer): summer
Language of instruction: English
Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): Face to face
Number of ECTS Allocated: 7
Prerequisites: /

Course Aims:

The course focuses on methods and argumentation for formal analysis of sentence structure through induction from language data of central concepts and relations; hypothesis testing, empirical bases of theoretical concepts.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students have a sound knowledge of the basics of one of the major syntactic theories (the Minimalist Programme of Chomsky 1993, 1995, 2000); an understanding of why the theory is structured as it is, and how it fits into a broader picture of language and mind; an ability to analyse simple sentences within the theory, and to follow and construct syntactic arguments, and an appreciation of the links between data and theory in syntax and in linguistics more generally.

Syllabus:

Core concepts: sentence, utterance, proposition; grammaticality and acceptability; tacit knowledge; syntactic theories. Morphosyntactic features: introducing features; feature systems; interface rules; motivating features; major and minor features. Constituency and theta roles: identifying constituents; determining the head; predicting the head: theta roles and selectional features; c-selection and s-selection; triggering Merge by feature checking. Representing phrase structure: the structure of phrases: Merge vs. Adjoin; structural relations: c-command; the case of ditransitives; linking; the architecture of the system. Introducing functional categories: lexical vs. functional categories; sentences are headed by T; tensemarking; head movement; do-support.

Required Reading:

David Adger, Core syntax: A Minimalist approach, Oxford University Press, 2003

Lectures:

Andrew Carnie, Syntax, Blackwell, 2013

Liliane Haegeman and Jacqueline Guéron, English Grammar: A Generative Perspective, Blackwell, 1999

Andrew Radford, Minimalist Syntax: Exploring the Structure of English, Cambridge University Press, 2004

Mark Baker, "On the structural positions of Themes and Goals". Studies in Natural Language and Linguistic Theory 33, Springer, 1996, pp. 7-34

Practical work:

Steven Pinker, The Language Instinct, Penguin, 1994

Ljiljana Progovac, A Syntax of Serbian, Slavica, 2005

Weekly Contact Hours:

Teaching Methods: lectures, problem-based learning, self-study, interactive classes: comparative text analysis and

discussion.					
Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points):					
Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points		
Active class		written exam	50		
participation					
Practical classes	10	oral exam			
Tests	40				
Seminar(s)					