UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

Applied Psycholinguistics

2324-2-F5105P011

Learning area

Applied experimental psychological sciences

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- analysis of linguistic ambiguity (phonological, lexical, syntactic, semantic, pragmatic) from the point of view of (i) the architecture of language and (ii) the mechanisms underlying language processing in monolinguals and bilinguals
- analysis of the mechanisms of parsing of words and sentences and principles of language processing from the point of view of (i) theoretical implications (for models of language processing); (ii) practical applications (use of language in real communicative situations; evaluation of different targets, scopes and means of communication of the message)
- analysis of the experimental methodologies and paradigms used in the investigation of the mechanisms involved in language processing
- analysis of some of the current debates in psycholinguistics (for example, debate on bilingualism; debate on inclusive language)

Applying knowledge and understanding

- reasoning about the form (or forms) of language to express linguistic content for different situational needs, modalities or scopes
- evaluating experimental paradigms and tools for the investigation of language use and language comprehension, also in consideration of the population (e.g., monolinguals vs. bilinguals) and the linguistic features of the language under investigation
- reasoning about implicit content triggered by linguistic items and analysis of non-literal interpretations

- interpreting behavioral measures (reading/reaction times measures, implicit measures of processing such as eye-tracking measures)
- analyzing scientific reports critically
- implementing testable hypothesis of research on language

Contents

The course provides an overview of the mechanisms underlying the processing of language focusing on (i) the different models of language processing in an up-to-date perspective; (ii) the different experimental techniques and paradigms used in psycholinguistic research; (iii) the current experimental research questions and the current debates about the use and processing of language.

Detailed program

Key concepts in psycholinguistics revisited in a cognitive framework:
Words and meaning
Associative mechanisms and mapping
Prediction and anticipation in language
Symbol grounding, embodiment and situated language
Large Language Models: from LSA to ChatGPT
Experimental methods and techniques used in psycholinguistics to investigate different linguistic phenomena
Recent developments and applications of Psycholinguistic research

Prerequisites

A background in linguistics is not required; the background information necessary to follow the course will be provided during the course.

Teaching methods

Lectures; individual or collective practice exercises; individual or group discussions of experimental works in scientific papers.

Assessment methods

The exam will verify the level of mastery of the course contents with special attention to:
knowledge of methods and research designs in psycholinguistics, as well as main results and current debates
ability to analyze and review a scientific paper in the field of psycholinguistics;

ability to apply theoretical notions to real-world situations of language use
The exam is written and comprises:

- colosed and open questions in order to assess the acquisition of theoretical notions and the ability to extend this competence
  to cases of real communicative situations;
- a series of exercises in which the student is required to extend the knowledge acquired to real examples of use of language.
  Upon student's request, the exam can be completed with an oral integration, on all the course topics.
  For students attending lessons on a regular basis, an ad-hoc examination and evaluation will be offered, as
  detailed below*:
- Mid-term assignment: Presentation in class consisting in the critical analysis of a scientific paper related to the topics discussed in class (prior approval of the instructor) (20% of the final grade)
- End-term examination on course content, as detailed above (80% of the final grade)

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Study material (including scientific papers) will be specified during the course and provided via e-learning.

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | REDUCED INEQUALITIES