UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Ethnolinguistics

2324-2-E2001R004

Course title

Linguistic variation

Topics and course structure

The course provides an introduction to the study of language variation, regarded as intralinguistic variation (i.e. within language) and interlinguistic variation (among different languages).

The course is articulated into three modules

- intralinguistic variation (20 hours): in this module, the fundamentals, research topics and methodologies of sociolinguistics will be presented. It will analyse how languages vary internally in relation to the social conditions of the speakers, with a focus on Italian.
- Interlinguistic variation (20 hours): in this module, variation among different languages is addressed. Adopting the point of view of typology, we will analyse how languages vary with respect to specific linguistic categories (e.g. gender, number, subject, time markers, etc.). Particular attention will be given to the characteristics displayed by Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and Arabic.
- Morphological variation (16 hours): this module focuses on variation in the morphological field and specifically in word-formation. After an overview on morphological theory and morphological typology, we will analyse how languages vary in the creation of new words.

Objectives

The course aims to provide the theoretical and methodological tools to understand and analyse how languages

vary. In particular, students will acquire

- the fundamental theoretical notions of sociolinguistics and typology
- the methodologies of linguistic analysis, with particular reference to the study of inter/intralinguistic variation
- the basic notions of morphological theory applied to typologically diverse languages

Methodologies

Lectures, seminars.
The course is delivered in Italian.

Online and offline teaching materials

Slides and materials will be uploaded during the course (elearning.unimib.it).

Programme and references

- Slides and teaching materials
- Fiorentino, G. (2018). *Variabilità linguistica. Temi e metodi della ricerca*. Roma: Carocci.
- Arcodia, G. F. & Mauri, C. (2016). *La diversità linguistica*. Roma: Carocci.
- Micheli, M. S. (2020). *La formazione delle parole. Italiano e altre lingue*. Roma: Carocci (chapter 1, chapter 2 (excluding par. 2.3.3), chapter 3)

Recommended (not mandatory) text:
Duranti, A. (2021). *Antropologia del linguaggio*. Roma: Meltemi (chapters: introduction, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7)

Erasmus+ students who cannot speak Italian are allowed to request an alternative programme in English.

Assessment methods

Students can choose between two assessment methods:

Method A:

- a short paper of a maximum of 7 pages (references included) on a (socio)linguistic topic agreed with the lecturer and the tutor assigned to the course, to be handed in at least 8 days before the date of the exam
- oral examination (2 questions)

Method B:

- oral examination (2 questions for each examination text).

The oral examination will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria: clarity of presentation, correct use of

specialised vocabulary, knowledge of the topics, argumentative capacity.
The short paper will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria: appropriateness of the topic, cohesion and coherence of the text, grammatical correctness, theoretical content and methodology, argumentative capacity.

Office hours

By appointment. Please write to: elisa.dargenio@unimib.it

Programme validity

The programme is valid for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Caterina Cancelmo (caterina.cancelmo@unimib.it)

Sustainable Development Goals

REDUCED INEQUALITIES