

## 4.11406~Introduction to Linguistics – Course Outline

### 1.0 Introduction to academic staff and contacts

My name is Olga Temple, and I am a lecturer in linguistics at the University of Papua New Guinea. I come from Latvia, Europe, but I have lived in PNG since December of 1998. I have been teaching at the UPNG since March, 2000.

I attended the Latvian State University in Riga, Latvia, and the Moscow State University in Moscow, Russia, where I obtained the Master of Arts degree in Romanic/Germanic Philology. My main academic interests are in the area of dialectal linguistics, cognitive science, syntax, semantics and sociolinguistics.

I am sure that you will find this course interesting and rewarding. In case you have any problems with understanding the content of the lecture notes, please do not hesitate to contact me – I really want to know what you think about the course (whether you find it interesting/ boring, easy to understand or difficult to make sense of, etc.). All your feedback and suggestions will help me revise it, to make it better for all the students that will come after you.

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### 2.0 Introduction to the course

This course is about Language, which many of us take for granted. It is also about the relationship between Language and Thought, because *Verbal* Thought is what makes human language different from animal ‘languages.’

Language is central to human existence and success in every human endeavor. Knowledge of what it is and how it works will improve your communication skills and will enable you to use language more effectively.

By the time you have completed this course, you should have a good idea of what Language is, and how it differs from animal communication systems. You will also have learnt a lot about the scope and basic direction of the linguistic science, and acquired a substantial understanding of language structure.

### 3.0 Course organization and content

Structurally, this course has three distinct parts:

1. Part I ~ Language as a Complex Whole, where we will view language dialectically with the aim of grasping its complexity and beauty.
2. Part II ~ The Physical *Forms* of Language focuses on the more ‘traditional’ aspects of descriptive linguistics (syntax, morphology, phonetics and phonology –the *physical* forms of language)
3. Part III is really the Conclusion, the ‘putting it all together again’; it will help you to put things that you have learnt into perspective.

It is my hope that, after completing this course, you will gain a new understanding and appreciation of Language, and that this new understanding will make you want to learn more.

### 4.0 Learning activities

This course involves a lot of reading, and thinking. Please try not to procrastinate, and keep up with the schedule below:

Week	Unit	Resources
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Linguistics – a <i>scientific</i> study of Language</li> <li>2. Traditional ‘Core’ Domains of Linguistics; need for a holistic approach</li> <li>3. How the study of linguistics will benefit you personally</li> </ol>	Genesutra Foreword Appendix 1. A brief survey of the history of Linguistics

**Part I ~ Language: A Complex Whole**

- 2 Sutra 1: On Human Cognition, Knowledge & Understanding** Genesutra pp. 1-7
1. Language = Verbal Thought
  2. How is it different from animal 'languages'? From physical senses?
  3. What is THOUGHT? UNDERSTANDING? KNOWLEDGE?
  4. Generalization: Symbols (iconic/arbitrary & aural /visual)
  5. Knowledge - & the invention of Writing
  6. Dialectics vs. Metaphysics
  7. Science vs. Art
- David Hume's Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding (Notes II pp. 165-167)
- Sutra 2. Language – a Complex Whole**
1. Language – a Gordian Knot of Contradictions
  2. Saussure's Solution: Structuralism
    - a. Fundamentals of Saussure's Structuralism
    - b. The Language Mechanism
  3. Dialectical Analysis
- 3 Sutra 3. Word- Meaning – the smallest unit of Language** Study Guide Resource Book
1. Dialectical Linguistics - Analysis into Units: *Word-Meanings*
  2. Generalization: Synthesis & Analysis
  3. Grammar precedes Logic: Piaget's stages of cognitive development
  4. Ambiguity (lexical and structural) & its causes
  5. Word-meanings develop:
    - a. In individual minds and
    - b. In the collective mind of the society
    - c. The concept of grammaticalization
  6. Language Origins
    - a. The Divine Creation perspective
    - b. The Evolutionary perspective
    - c. How and why did our ancestors begin to generalize?
    - d. What was Language like, in its infancy?
  - c. Biological evolution vs. Language change
- Sutra 4. The Whole Is More than the Sum of Its Parts**
- 4**
1. Language & Thought
  2. Meaning as use
  3. Speech & Thought are *structurally* different
    - a. Inner speech is an autonomous function of Language
  4. Generalization – the Rational Language Mechanism
  5. Dialectic vs. Traditional Semantics

**Part II ~ The Physical Forms of Language**

- 5 Sutra 5. Generalization – the Rational Language Mechanism** Appendix II. Basic Grammatical Concepts, pp.184-193
1. Syntax – Patterns of Words in the Sentence
    - a. Synthesis & Analysis of Word-Mosaics
  2. The Language Mechanism
- 6-7 Sutra 6. Limitations of Arbitrariness**
1. Grammaticality
  2. G-nalysis - practical sentence analysis

- 8 Sutra 7. Morphology: Words & Pieces of Words
1. Morpheme: concept
  2. Morpheme Classification:
  3. Word formation processes
- 9 **Sutra 8. Allomorphy & Morphological Types**
1. Allomorphy
  2. Linguistic Typology - Morphological types
    - a. Analytical (isolating)
    - b. Synthetic (agglutinating, inflectional, fusional)
  3. Linguistic Change
- 10 **Sutra 9. The Atoms of Language – Speech Sounds**
1. Phonetics vs. Phonology
  2. International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
  3. Organs of Speech
  4. Classification of speech sounds
- 11-12 **Sutra 10. Sounds - the Elements of a Language**
1. Phonology:
    - phonemes, allophones, phones
    - minimal pairs & minimal sets Phonemes
  2. Connected Speech: Assimilation
  3. Phonological rules

### Part III ~ Putting it all together again

#### Language - One Complex Whole again [The Gist of Genesutra]

- 13
1. Quick Revision of Main Points
  2. Synthesis after Analysis – Rising to a New Level of Understanding
  3. The Language Mechanism

14 Recess

15 Final Exam

### 5.0 Assessment

Your grade for the course will be based on the following assessable items:

Item	Due dates	Value
Assignment 1 (on Part I of the course)	End of week 5	20 %
Assignment 2 (on Syntax & Morphology)	End of week 8	20 %
Assignment 3 (Phonetics & Phonology)	End of week 11	20 %
	Continuous assessment sub-total	60 %
	Final Exam	40 %
	Total	100%

### Calculation of Grade Point Average (GPA)

Following the assessment period, you will receive a letter grade (A, B, C, D, or F) for the course (or courses) that you completed. To calculate the GPA, you need to convert the letter grade into a number, as given here: A= 4. B= 3, C= 2, D= 1 and F= 0.

Each course has been assigned a number of credit points. These are recorded in the UPNG course catalogue.

Multiply your grade by the given number of credit points for your course to determine your grade points. Do this for every course you have taken and add all the grade points together to get the total number of grade points.

Divide your total grade points by the number of courses you have taken. This answer is your GPA. It should fall between 0 and 5.00.

### **6.1 Final examination**

The date and time for this examination will be posted on the notice board at each Study Centre. The 3-hour examination will cover the entire content of the course.

A practice exam has been placed at the back of this booklet. You should attempt the practice exam when you have completed your revision for this course. When you write the practice exam, you can challenge yourself to approach it as if it were the real exam. After you have finished, your analysis of your answers will give you an idea of how well you will do in the final examination.

### **6.2 Assignment information**

Make sure you keep a copy of your assignments.

Attach a cover sheet to the original before posting or delivering it.

Tear off and use the coversheet(s) at the back of this book. You should find enough coversheets for all your assignments for all the terms of this course.

Attach the respective coversheet to your term assignments.

Place the assignment in an envelope and either mail it directly to the address on the coversheet OR give it to your Centre Director to send in with the others ahead of the deadline.

Make sure you submit your assignment in time to reach the Assessment Coordinator by the deadline. The people marking the assignments must also mark for campus students. They will be too busy to mark yours if it is not submitted on time.

Any work received after the due date will be penalized by 5% per day and, if more than 7 days late, will not be marked.