University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Social Aspects of Language - lecture, PG_00166783		
Field of study	Cultural Communication		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	English Examples may be taken from other languages.
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	1.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Maciej Rataj	
	Teachers	dr Maciej Rataj	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15
E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	15	1.0	9.0	25

Subject objectives	Making students aware of basic areas and concepts of sociolinguistics Teaching sociolinguistic terminology Teaching reading and understanding academic texts in the field of sociolinguistics. Helping students develop their interests in the area of social aspects of language.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[CCL3_K01] The graduate is ready to critically assess the extent of his/her knowledge and skills, including cultural studies, literary studies and linguistics in relation to intercultural dialogue.	S. can critically assess their knowledge and skills within sociolinguistics in reference to culture.	[SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCL3_U02] The graduate can appropriately use the acquired subject knowledge to identify and explain facts, phenomena and processes concerning culture, literature and language, as well as their cultural and social conditions, using concepts and methods from the fields of cultural and religious sciences, literary studies and linguistics.	S. are able to use acquired subject knowledge appropriately to identify and explain facts, phenomena and processes relating to sociolinguistics and its cultural and social determinants, using concepts and methods from the field of linguistics.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCL3_W09] The graduate has advanced knowledge of the basic English-language conceptual and terminological apparatus of linguistics, particularly applicable to the study of the cultural and social functioning of language.	S. have advanced knowledge of the basic English-language conceptual and terminological apparatus in the field of sociolinguistics, particularly as it applies to research on the cultural and social functioning of language.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCL3_W15] The graduate knows and understands to an advanced degree the basic methods of linguistic analysis, including those applicable to the study of the cultural and social functioning of language.	S. know and understand at an advanced level the basic methods of linguistic analysis in the field of sociolinguistics, including those applicable to research on the cultural and social functioning of language.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCL3_U09] The graduate is able to participate in debate in English on issues in cultural studies, literary studies and linguistics, present and evaluate different opinions and positions and discuss them.	Can participate in debate in English on sociolinguistic issues, present, evaluate and discuss different opinions and positions.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCL3_W03] The graduate knows and understands to an advanced degree selected issues that constitute basic general knowledge in linguistics, in particular, concerning the cultural and social functioning of language.	S. know and understand at an advanced level selected issues constituting basic general knowledge in the field of sociolinguistics, in particular those relating to the cultural and social functioning of language.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCL3_W06] The graduate knows and understands to an advanced degree the basic research methodologies and theories in linguistics, especially applicable to the study of the cultural and social functioning of language.	S. know and understand at an advanced level the basic research methodologies and theories in the field of sociolinguistics, particularly those applicable to research on the cultural and social functioning of language.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCL3_W12] The graduate has advanced detailed knowledge of issues in the cultural and social functioning of language.	Has advanced, detailed knowledge of issues related to the cultural and social functioning of language within sociolinguistics.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[CCL3_U08] The graduate is able to communicate in English, using specialized terminology in cultural and religious studies, literary studies and linguistics.	Can communicate in English using specialized terminology from the field of sociolinguistics.	[SU4] test/exam - oral or written

Subject contents

1. Basic sociolinguistic concepts 2. Language variation, linguistic varieties exemplified by English and/or other languages 3. Style and levels of formality 4. Pidgins and creoles 5. World English: native Englishes, English as a second/foreign language 6. Individual bilingualism 7. Bilingual and multilingual societies 8. Language and gender 9. Language power, policy and planning

Prerequisites and co-requisites

No formal requirements
Adequate English language skills, knowledge of basic linguistic terms as covered in Introduction to Language Studies

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Written examination	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Meyerhoff, Miriam. 2011. Introducing Sociolinguitics. 2nd ed. Abingdon: Routledge. [or other editions] Spolsky, Bernard. 1998. Sociolinguistics. Oxford: OUP. Stockwell, Peter. 2007. Sociolinguistics: A Resource Book for Students. London: Routledge. Trudgill, Peter. 2000. Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society. London: Penguin. Wardhaugh, Ronald. 2005. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. 5th ed. Malden: Blackwell. [or later editions] Particular sources and their pages to be covered in the examination are to be selected by the instructor.

	Supplementary literature	Crystal, David. 2003. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language. 2nd ed. Cambridge : CUP. Fromkin, Victoria, Rodman, Robert and Nina Hyams. 2011. An Introduction to Language. 9th ed. Wadsworth: Cengage Learning (the chapter aboutlanguage in society). Holmes, Janet. 2008. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Harlow, UK: Pearson Longman. Hudson, Richard A. 2007. Sociolinguistics. Cambridge: CUP. Lanir, Lesley. Slang: Humans Linguistic Creativity at Work, Not Linguistic Corruption. May 2013. Decoded Science.http://www.decodedscience.com/slang-humans-linguistic-creativity-at-work-not-linguistic-corruption/30363 Mesthrie, Rajend, ed. 2011. The Cambridge Handbook of Sociolinguistics. Cambridge: CUP. Extracurricular readings Aitchison, Jean. 1981. Language Change: Progress or Decay?. Bungay, UK: Fontana. [or later editions] Crystal, David. 2005. How Language Works. London: Penguin Group Hughes, Arthur, Peter Trudgill and Dominic Watt. 2005. English Accents and Dialects (...). London: Hodder Arnold. McArthur, Tom. 1992. Oxford Companion to the English Language. New York, NY: Oxford University Press McArthur, Tom. 1998. The English Languages. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press Rataj, Maciej. 2016. Attitudes to Standard British English and Standard Pollish (...). Gdańsk Studies in Language vol. 5. Frankfurt a/Main: Peter Lang. Romaine, Suzanne. 2000. Language in Society: An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Oxford: OUP.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	definitions of sociolinguistic concepts, examples from languages such as varieties of English, other European languages and/or L1 of students	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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