

PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA
FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL AND RUSSIAN LINGUISTICS

Recommended by ICSU

PROGRAM OF DISCIPLINE

Title of the discipline:

THEORY OF LINGUISTICS

Recommended for University standards to educate in:

45.06.01 Linguistics and Literature Studies

Specification "Theory of Language" (in English)
Comparative and Historical, Typological and Contrastive Linguistics
(in English)

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The main purpose of the course is to introduce post-graduate students to the theory of linguistics. The discipline *Theory of linguistics* involves integrative approach to the studies of language as an observed phenomenon and an object of the linguistic science. The discipline includes studies based on systemic principle.

Course Aims:

determine methodological background and collections of concepts as well as the origins of the main linguistic schools and theories – from Classical Antiquity till nowadays;

proceeding from the main linguo-philosophical and linguistic concepts reveal the formation of linguistics as an integral and independent branch of science;

reveal the dynamics and continuity while describing the leading trends and complexes of methods to research languages in different conceptions;

study main forms of language essence proceeding from a correlation of its universal (general), typological (specific) and special (unique) features’

reveal outer and inner factors of language development; outline the main trend of the theory of language formation in connection with the evolution of knowledge about the world, the mankind and human language;

present the contribution of each conception having been reviewed to the theory of language and the elaboration of linguistic methods.

2. Course in Academic Programme Structure

The course is one of the variable disciplines of Block 1 from the academic curriculum.

Students should master the methodology of linguistics as an integral knowledge of language; be able to analyze ontological and epistemic issues of linguistics; be well aware of the leading conceptions of the theory of language; have skills to analyze language as a system. The course provides theoretical grounds to further training in courses about the linguistic science.

Table № 1

Precedent and following disciplines to form various competences

No	Competence code and label	Precedent disciplines	Following disciplines (groups of disciplines)
	PC- 3	Scientific Seminar on Comparative-and- Historical, Typological and Contrastive Linguistics	Scientific Research
	PC-4	Information TechnologiesScientific Seminar on Comparative-and- Historical, Typological and Contrastive Linguistics	Scientific Research

	PC-6	Scientific Seminar on Comparative-and- Historical, Typological and Contrastive Linguistics	Scientific Research
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3. Requirements to the results of mastering the discipline

The process of studying the discipline is aimed to form the following competences:

Professional competences

PC-3 mastering of modern scientific paradigm in the fields of linguistics and the ability to integrate and actualize self-research results within the scientific paradigm;

PC-4 the ability to take part in theoretical, empirical or practical researches (to develop language resources: the corpus of texts, dictionaries, historical-comparative, typological, contrastive, terminological, and other databases); PC-5 the ability to participate in the development of educational-methodical materials necessary for the specialized discipline education in higher education institutions;

PC-6 the ability to demonstrate and apply knowledge in the chosen field of linguistics considering the modern principles of language study (integrity, anthropocentricity, textual centrality, communicativeness, functionality).

As a result of studying the discipline, students should master the following:

TO KNOW: modern scientific paradigms in the domain of linguistics and the dynamics of its development: as well as systems of methodological criteria and methods of linguistic research.

TO MANAGE: demonstrating advanced knowledge in the one chosen linguistic domain.

TO MASTER: ability to self-increase, critical analysis and application of theoretical and practical knowledge in linguistics.

4. The discipline content and kinds of training

The discipline accounts for three credits per semester

Kind of Training	Total of Working Periods	Semesters			
		1	2	3	4
Classroom-based studies (total)	20			20	
<i>including:</i>					
lectures	10			10	
practical work (PW)					
seminars (S)	10			10	
SELF-STUDIES (TOTAL)	88			88	
WORKING HOURS (TOTAL)	180			108	
CREDITS	3			3	

5. Course content

5.1. Content of the discipline:

№	Topic	Brief description:
	Language as an object of Linguistics. Language ontology.	Theme 1 Language as the main object interacts with thought (mind), reality and is a distinctive feature of a man. Language as a phenomenon of observation and study. Language as a social assignment of a compulsory type in the theory of F. de Saussure. Forms of language existence. Language, speech, communication. Social forms of language: language, dialect, idiolect.
	Language as a form. Language, thought and reality.	Theme 3 Language as a form: language as a mediator between a man and reality. Language and thought. Language as a reflexive process in philosophical and cognitive aspects. The notions of inner and outer forms.
	System and structure of language.	Theme 4 Systems, classes and multiplicities in relation to language. General principles and approaches. System and structure of language. Theme 5 Language units: abstract and concrete language units. Inner structure of language. Language units and speech units.
	Language structure: relations between language units.	Theme 6 Language structure: relations between language units. Syntagmatics, paradigmatics, hierarchy, distribution. Segmentation and substitution. Syntagmatics and paradigmatics of different language levels (units). Phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics.
	Main functions of language.	Theme 7 System of functions. Main functions of language (retrospective review). Functions of language as a sign system. Language functions and the communicative act. Theories of R.O. Jakobson and K. Bühler. Signals and symbols.
	Language as a symbolic system. Language signs: types, characteristics and attributes.	Theme 8 From the semantic triangular to the bilateral language sign. Unilateral and bilateral signs. Sign, meaning, valeur. Icons, indexes and symbols.
	Classification and taxonomy. Types of language classifications.	Theme 9 Genetic, typologic and areal language classification. Principles and criteria. From the genetic classification to the contentive typology. Multidimensional classifications by E. Sapir

5.2. Sections of the discipline and kinds of training

№	Name of the discipline sector	Lectures	Seminars	Lab. Work : none	Practical Work (see: seminars)	Independent Research	Work hours TOTAL
1.	Language as an object of Linguistics. Language ontology.	1	1			16	18
2.	Language as a form. Language, thought and	1	1			16	15

	reality.						
3.	System and structure of language.	2	2			18	15
4.	Language structure: relations between language units.	1	1			16	15
5.	Main functions of language.	2	2			16	15
6.	Language as a symbolic system. Language signs: types, characteristics and attributes.	1	1			16	15
7.	Classification and taxonomy. Types of language classifications.	2	2			16	15
	TOTAL:	10	10			88	108

6. Laboratory work – none

7. Seminars (= practical work)

№	№ of discipline sector	Seminar Topics	Work hours
1.	1.	Evolution of views on language as an object of linguistics	1
2.	2.	Ontology of language. Logic and Grammar. Universal Grammars.	1
3.	3.	The principle of historicism in natural sciences and humanities.	2
4.	4.	Comparative and historical method.	1
5.	5.	Linguistic paradigms. Main antinomies: thought and reality, man and the universe, dynamics and statics in Humboldt's theory	2
6.	6.	Main contributions of the Neo-grammarians to general linguistics	1
7.	7.	Systemic approach to language and language phenomenon.	2

8. Technical Support Requirements

It is necessary to have a computer or a laptop (with installed licensed software and the Internet) and a projector in a classroom.

9. Information provision

Software for the discipline Programme:

Software installed in RUDN University is one hundred percent license: the bulk of Microsoft Office.

Databases, search engines and reference data:

<http://lib.rudn.ru> RUDN library online site

www.wikipedia.org – The Free Encyclopedia

www.ipl.org – Internet Public Library, the University of Michigan

10. Educational and methodical provisions

Books and manuals on *Theory and History of Linguistics*:

Compulsory

Krasina Elena A. Theory and history of linguistics [Текст/электронный ресурс] = Теория и история языкознания : Education and Metodical Complex / Е.А.Красина. - Книга на английском языке; Электронные текстовые данные. М.: PFUR, 2013. - 112 p. - ISBN 978-5-209-05066-7: 270.76.

http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/UserEntry?Action=Rudn_FindDoc&id=404435&idb=0 5 copies

Optional

An Introduction to Language and Linguistics / Fasold Ralph W., Connor-Linton Jeff. – Книга на английском языке. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. - 540 p. - ISBN 978-0-521-61235-7: 2933.70. - 3 copies

Phenomenology in English and in Russian [Текст]: Учебное пособие / С. Е. Боброва; РУДН; Отв. ред. Л.Н. Талалова. - М. : Изд-во РУДН, 2004. - 79 с. : ил. - 55.00. 1 copy

11. Course Studies Recommendations

General outline

Students are expected to be in class on time and it is crucial that they come prepared to talk about the readings. Participation includes active speaking as well as attentive listening. An atmosphere of respect, openness and patience is expected in the classroom. Students are required to do the tasks at home and come to class ready to participate. The final assignment covers all course modules/units/content/topics/issues and thus helps consolidate students' learning activities.

The teacher determines the overall process of learning activities, offers recommendations to make use of various resources with the view of developing and improving knowledge, skills and abilities that are crucial for understanding the material. The student is expected to search for additional important material, use individually selected resources to perform independent work, taking into account the teacher's recommendations. Involvement in all the course academic activities is compulsory. In order to get the most out of the recommended readings, the unique contributions of all members of the group are vital.

12. Assessment and Grading Fund

Materials for assessing the level of mastering the educational material of the discipline (assessment materials), including a list of competencies indicating the stages of their formation, a description of indicators and criteria for assessing competencies at various stages of their formation, a description of assessment scales, standard control tasks or other materials necessary for assessment knowledge, abilities, skills and (or) experience of activity, characterizing the stages of the formation of competencies in the process of mastering the educational program, methodological materials defining the procedures for assessing knowledge, skills, skills and (or) experience of activity, characterizing the stages of formation of competencies, have been developed in full and are available to students on the discipline page at TUIS RUDN University¹.

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¹On the discipline page in TUIS RUDN University, computer tests are presented for the entrance control of

The program has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the ES of HE RUDN University.

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knowledge, midterm certification of academic performance, intermediate certification of students and assessment of their residual knowledge in the discipline.