

Course Code: BLS-C102

Course Title: The Structure of English and Phonetics

Core/Elective: Core

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This is an introductory course to the area of Linguistics and Phonetics. It is aimed at making the students understand the basic branches of Linguistics, dwelling more on Phonetics, which is the basis for intelligible pronunciation. All the fundamental aspects of phonetics – both segmental and suprasegmental – are dealt with in this course. Tutorial and laboratory sessions are an integral part of the course to hone the pronunciation and dictionary skills of the students.

Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The course is designed to facilitate a sound understanding of the area of linguistics in general and, Phonetics in particular. The course would fulfil the following learning outcomes:

- Learners would get an overview of the nature and scope of Linguistics and its related branches, Phonetics in particular.
- Learners would gain a thorough Phonetic knowledge of the segmental and suprasegmental features of the sound system of English language.
- Learners would gain expertise in the production, perception, and usage of speech sounds and the different aspects of intonation.
- Learners would develop the dictionary skills required for improving their pronunciation.

Module 1: Introduction to English Language and Linguistics

- a. Definition, Nature and Scope, and Structure of English Language
- b. Overview of the branches of Linguistics: Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics

Module 2: Phonetics and Phonology; The Segmental Features of English

Lectures

- a. Phonetics and Phonology; speech chain; speech organs; speech sounds in general (introduction to IPA chart); speech sounds of English
- b. The Phonological system of English sounds – vowels; criteria for description; 3-term descriptions
- c. The Phonological system of English sounds – consonants; criteria for description; 3-term descriptions

Tutorials and Laboratory Sessions

- a. Practice in the perception of sounds (vowels and consonants)
- b. Practice in the production of sounds (vowels and consonants)
- c. Dictionary skills related to pronunciation and intelligibility
- d. Phonemic Transcription Exercises

Module 3: Suprasegmental Features of English: Word Accent and Rhythm

Lectures

- a. Syllable; structure of the syllable; syllable division
- b. Word accent; criteria; some rules of word accent – polysyllabic words
- c. Rhythm; types of rhythm; content words and structure words; some weak and contracted forms

Tutorials & Laboratory sessions

- a. Practice in the perception of the various patterns of word accent and rhythm
- b. Practice in the production of the various patterns of word accent and rhythm
- c. Dictionary skills related to word accent and rhythm
- d. Phonemic Transcription Exercises – words and sentences

Module 4: Suprasegmental Features of English: Intonation

Lectures

- a. Tonality: tone group; structure of a tone group; unmarked
- b. Tonicity: tonic syllable; criteria; unmarked
- c. Tones: Falling, Rising, Fall-Rise; unmarked

Tutorials & Laboratory sessions

- a. Practice in perception of various patterns of intonation
- b. Practice in production of various patterns of intonation

Prescribed Reading

- O'Connor, J. D. (1979). *Better English Pronunciation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hancock, Mark. (2003). *English Pronunciation in Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Jones, Daniel. (2007). *English Pronouncing Dictionary*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rowe, B. M., & Levine, D. P. (2018). *A Concise Introduction to Linguistics*. London: Routledge.

Evaluation Scheme

Internals: assignments (10%), Written Tests (30%)
Externals: semester-end examination (60 %)