**Aims and Tasks Statement for LING 101 ‘Introduction to Linguistics’**

Aims

Linguistics 101 lays the groundwork for a detailed understanding of the forms, structure, patterns, characteristics, and use of language and language behavior. Unlike with writing or literature, it is, for virtually all students, their first exposure to this field, which centers around an objective and descriptive study of language. The general aims of the course are:

1. To enable students to analyze language in an objective way and to view language as data;
2. To raise awareness of the complexity and diversity of language;
3. To encourage students to think critically as they discover language facts and try to account for their patterning;

Specific Tasks

Students will:

1. Gain an overview of the field of linguistics and develop a basic understanding of the modules of grammar (such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics);
2. Learn about basic linguistic theory and its relation to description and explanation of data;
3. Learn about different subdisciplines of linguistics such as psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and historical linguistics;
4. Learn linguistic concepts and terms necessary to describe and analyze language;
5. Analyze the linguistic structure of English, as well as other languages;
6. Demonstrate understanding of concepts and content through a variety of formal and informal exercises, assignments, and assessments;
7. Develop an appreciation of linguistic diversity through exposure to nonstandard varieties and critical examination of social attitudes towards these varieties.

Rationale

The Academic Catalog states that “students who pursue a major in English become familiar with the language” and “students practice literary and linguistic analysis.” This introductory course provides students with the basic tools to conduct linguistic analysis, and enables them to become familiar with the workings of both the English language and of language in general. It also provides the pre-requisite base from which students may explore additional topics of language study in sufficient depth to fulfill the upper-level linguistics requirement.

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