

Structures in Spoken Language (A005490)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

seminar

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Crocco, Claudia

LW06

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

[Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics \(main subject Linguistics in a Comparative Perspective\)](#)

crdts

6

offering

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Prosodic structure, intonational phonology, syntactic structure, syntax-prosody interface, dialogical speech

Position of the course

This specialized course deepens student's understanding of the relationship between prosody and syntax in spoken language.

The course focuses on:

a) Prosodic structure (prosodic phonology) b) intonational phonology c) syntactic structures in spoken language d) the relationship between intonation and syntax (syntax-prosody interface). During this course, students will be presented with material in different languages. The students will also further develop their research skills through research assignment(s).

Contents

The course aims to familiarize students with the prosodic phonology and its relationship with syntax. The focus lies on the study of prosodic and syntactic structures in natural speech.

This course covers the following topics:

- the Prosodic hierarchy
- the intonational phonology
- the Autosegmental-Metrical theory
- Syntactic structures in spoken language
- Approaches to the Syntax-prosody interface
- Information structure phenomena (topic and focus) in natural speech

Initial competences

Master-level knowledge of syntactic theory, pragmatics, segmental phonetics.

Final competences

- 1 Insight into the theory: the student understands the most important points of phonological theory and of the relationship between phonology and phonetics, and phonology and syntax
- 2 Insight into the theory: The student can relate the content of the course to insights gained in other linguistics courses

3 Application of the theory: The student can independently analyze an audio fragment and can explain the most important phonetic, phonological and syntactic properties of the fragment

4 Research skills: the student can write a structured paper in which he analyzes a text and compares various possible analyzes. He / she analyzes and annotates audio fragments with Praat (spoken language analysis program) and has insight into the problems of segmentation, annotation and analysis of spoken language

5 Research skills: the student can independently search for, consult and critically report on scientific sources

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Because of COVID19 modified forms of work can be used if necessary.

Learning materials and price

- Powerpoint-presentations, online lessen, video opnames
- Relevant bibliography on prosody, syntax and their relationship in spoken language (Ufora)
- Total estimated cost: 10 EUR

References

- Bayer J., Hinterhölzl R. & Trotzke A. 2015. *Discourse-oriented Syntax*. John Benjamins.
- Coniglio, M. & Zegrean, I. 2012. Splitting up force. In L. Haegeman, L. Aelbrecht & R. Nye (eds.), *Main Clause Phenomena: New Horizons*, 190-229. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Frascarelli, M. & R. Hinterhölzl. 2007. Types of topics in German and Italian. In S. Winkler & K. Schwabe (eds.), *On information structure, meaning and form*, 87-116. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Frota S. 2012. Prosodic structure, constituents and their implementation. In *The Oxford Handbook of Laboratory Phonology*, ed. A Cohn, C Fougeron, M Huffman, pp. 255-65. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press
- Haegeman, L. & Hill, V. 2013. The syntacticization of discourse. In R. Folli, C. Sevdali & R. Truswell (eds.), *Syntax and its limits*, 370-390. Oxford University Press.
- Inkelas S, Zec D. 1995. Syntax-phonology interface. In *The Handbook of Phonological Theory*, pp. 535-49. Cambridge, Mass., and Oxford, UK: Blackwell.
- Ladd, D. R., (2008), *Intonational Phonology*, 2nd edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Nespor, M. and I. Vogel (1986) *Prosodic Phonology*. Dordrecht: Foris.
- Rizzi, L. 1997. The fine structure of the left periphery. In L. Haegeman (ed.), *Elements of grammar*, 281-337. Springer Netherlands.
- Selkirk E. 2011. The syntax-phonology interface. In *The Handbook of Phonological Theory, 2nd edition*, ed. J Goldsmith, J Riggall, A Yu, pp. 435-84.
- Wiltschko, M. 2014. *The Universal Structure of Categories: Towards a Formal Typology*. Cambridge University Press.

Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked during lecturer's office hours (by appointment)

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Oral assessment, Participation, Assignment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Oral assessment, Assignment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment:

- Active participation to seminars, online discussion, feedback
- Portfolio: collection of scientific sources and activities, reports, notes and analyses
- Assignment: essay structured as a scientific article presenting a prosodic and syntactic analysis of a dataset.

The following competencies are evaluated: Knowledge of the relevant literature; Understanding and critical application of the theory; Analysis of the dataset; structure and argumentation of the essay.

Calculation of the examination mark

100% continuous assessment

50% portfolio and participation

50% assignment

Facilities for Working Students

Working students can arrange a personalized study programme with the lecturer. The programme will include scientific articles, book or handbook chapters that can be autonomously studied.