

Position of the course

– Offered starting from AY 26-27 –

Contents

This course unit offers a comprehensive introduction to the closely related disciplines of dialectology and onomastics.

The module on dialectology begins with a few introductory lectures on the history of dialectology and on the complex relationship between dialectology and sociolinguistics as contemporary subdisciplines within the study of language variation. This is followed by sessions on (i) dialect phonology, (ii) dialect morphology and syntax, and (iii) dialect lexicology and lexicography, with considerable attention to the results of recent research and to the data sources available to present-day dialect researchers (corpora, large-scale survey projects past and present, etc.). The case studies discussed are drawn mainly from Southern Dutch (i.e. Flemish, Brabantine, and Limburgish) dialects, with occasional excursions to dialects from other language areas. No specialized prior knowledge of the phonology, morphology, etc. of present-day Standard Dutch is required beyond what (near-)native speakers naturally possess, so the course unit can also be followed by students whose language combination does not include Dutch. Three sessions are devoted to the onomastics module and consist of a theoretical introduction to the distinction between common nouns and proper names, followed by lectures on toponymy (place names) and anthroponymy (personal names), respectively. Once again, considerable attention is paid to research methodology and sources.

In the final two weeks of the course, students present the results of their own small-scale research project in dialectology or onomastics.

Initial competences

Have a (near-)native command of Dutch. Possess knowledge of basic concepts from linguistics, as covered in introductory linguistics courses.

Final competences

- 1 To have a thorough understanding of the relationships between dialectology, onomastics, and related subdisciplines of linguistics, such as sociolinguistics and historical linguistics.
- 2 To have a thorough understanding of the defining grammatical properties of proper nouns (vis-à-vis common nouns).
- 3 To have knowledge of a number of important research tools in the field of (Dutch) dialectology and onomastics, and an understanding of their possibilities and limitations.
- 4 To be able to read and understand recent scholarly publications on dialectology and onomastics and to critically evaluate the methodologies and data sources used.
- 5 To be able to contribute, through your own small-scale research project, to filling a gap in knowledge about one or more dialects, names, or naming strategies.
- 6 To be able to translate scholarly knowledge on dialectology or onomastics into an accessible text aimed at a lay audience.

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

The sessions are a combination of lectures (providing theoretical material) and seminars/tutorials (intermediate exercises and discussions on the topics covered). Students are regularly required to prepare one or more exercises at home and/or are assigned preparatory reading.

Recordings are provided for this course component, but they are only accessible upon motivated request for working students and others who, for valid and

documented reasons, are unable to attend the seminars in person.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Dialectology and onomastics

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : Yes

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, 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

Students must submit two short papers:

- Paper 1 (recommended length: 2,000–3,000 words) is a report of an original empirical mini-research project in the field of dialectology or onomastics.
- Paper 2 (recommended length: 750–1,000 words) is a popular science text on a topic of the student's choice within dialectology or onomastics that is of interest to a broader audience.

In addition, students present the main findings of their mini-research in an oral presentation of approximately 15 minutes and discuss these with the instructors and fellow students.

For participation, students receive a score based on their active involvement in the course activities.

Students can only pass if they have submitted both papers and delivered a presentation. If one of these components is missing, the calculated final grade will be reduced to a maximum of 9/20.

During the second examination period, students may (re)submit one or both papers and give a presentation, but they cannot earn a new participation score.

For participation, they retain the score obtained during the first examination period.

Calculation of the examination mark

50% paper 1; 20% presentation; 20% paper 2; 10% participation

Facilities for Working Students

Working students may be exempted from attending the classes. For the participation component, they are then given a small alternative assignment (namely, written preparation of a number of exercises and a discussion of these during a Teams session with the instructor(s)).