

Academic year 2022-23 (תשפ"ג)

Course title (English):

Methodological principles in linguistics

Course title (Hebrew):

עקרונות מתודולוגיים בבלשנות

Course number: 132.2.0016+132.2.0166

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours):

Lecturer: Ariel Cohen

Lecturer's conference hour and contact details: arikc@bgu.ac.il

Course description & objectives:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to methods of linguistic research. Specifically, we will examine the following approaches to language, and the corresponding methods they imply:

1. Language is a formal system: formalization
2. Language is universal: search for universal principles
3. Language is a system of communication: search for pragmatic, communicative principles
4. Language is a form of human behavior: experimental evidence
5. Language is a natural phenomenon: corpus study
6. Language is very complex: descriptive approaches

We will show how a linguistic problem can be attacked from any one of these directions, or a combination thereof. As a test case, we will look at accounts of the meaning of superlative quantifiers (*at least* and *at most*).

Course requirements:

Attendance is not required.

(50%) Presentation of a linguistics paper of your choice (which I approve).

The focus of the presentation should be a critical evaluation of the methodology of the paper.

. (30%) For each of the papers chosen by other students, read the paper before the presentation, and submit a brief (one paragraph) description of the problem the paper is trying to solve (no need to describe the solution).

. (20%) Quiz

