



المدرسة العليا للتربية والتكوين - أكادير  
+ΕΙCΗ +Α.ΧΗΗ. + Ε +ΧCΕ Λ %ΘC%++X - .X.ΛΞΟ  
ECOLE SUPERIEURE DE L'EDUCATION ET DE LA FORMATION - AGADIR

# Higher School of Education and Training– Agadir

**Bachelor's Degree in Education**  
**Secondary Education – English Language**



For further details, visit our website: [www.esefa.uiz.ac.ma](http://www.esefa.uiz.ac.ma)  
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## **Module Title: Introduction to language**

<b>Institution:</b>	Higher School of Education and Training, Agadir
<b>Cycle:</b>	Bachelor's Degree in Education
<b>Module Code :</b>	M21
<b>Semester:</b>	3
<b>Language of Instruction :</b>	English
<b>Nature of Module:</b>	Disciplinary
<b>Total Hours :</b>	50 hours ( 40 in-person, 10 Online )
<b>Nombre de credits :</b>	4
<b>Mode of Instruction :</b>	In-person and Online (Hybrid)

### **1. MODULE SYLLABUS**

#### **1.1. Competencies to be acquired**

Upon successful completion of the course, the students will have developed knowledge in the following areas:

- Knowledge of key concepts related the nature, origin, and evolution of language
- Knowledge of various factors and processes affecting language change and its various manifestations.
- Awareness of the multifaceted nature of the phenomenon of language.
- Knowledge of the various forms of language realizations.
- Awareness of the symbolic nature of language.
- Basics of language acquisition.
- The interrelated of language and social variables such as gender, age, class, etc.

#### **1.2. Knowledge to be acquired**

General objective of the course:

- Define language and recognize its nature.
- Differentiate between human language and other means of communication.
- Identify different forms of language.

- Recognize various factors that influence language variety and change.
- Explain observed language phenomena using newly acquired knowledge.
- Illustrate newly introduced concepts with authentic examples from their own experiences as language users.
- Think critically about their lived experiences as language users and relate them to the course content.
- Reflect on how their L1 is related to other languages and varieties

### 1.3. Hourly Volume

#### Hourly Distribution by Teaching and Evaluation Activity:

(Tutorials and practical sessions are mandatory in disciplinary and vocational modules when required by their disciplinary nature. Practical work, excluding educational actions within a school, constitutes at least 20% of the total module hours.)

Component of the Module	ECTS	Hourly volume (VH)						
		Courses	TD	TP	Activities	Personal Work	Evaluation (assessment and final exam)	Total VH
	4	28	6			10	6	50
ECTS/VH global du module	4	28	6			10	6	50
% VH		56%	12%			20%	12%	100%

#### Hourly Distribution by Mode of Instruction:

Mode of Instruction	Face-to-face	Distance Learning	Alternating	Total VH
Volume Hour	40h	10h		50h
% of Total Volume	80%	20%		100%

### 1.1. Detailed Module Content Description

Week	Topics
Week 1	<b><i>Introduction to the course + definition of language</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course overview</li> <li>• Definition of language , importance of language study, characteristics of human language</li> </ul>
	<b><i>Origins of Language 1</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theories on the origin of language</li> <li>• Historical perspectives on language</li> <li>• Evolutionary significance of language</li> </ul>

<b>Week 2</b>	<p><b><i>Origins of Language 2</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of language origin theories</li> <li>• Language in the context of early human societies</li> <li>• Role of communication in survival and adaptation</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Properties of human language (Hockett's Design features)</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanation of Hockett's Design Features</li> <li>• Detailed examination of the features</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3</b>	<p><b><i>Animal communication vs. Human language</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to animal communication systems</li> <li>• Characteristics of animal communication</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Speech Vs Writing</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differences between speech and writing</li> <li>• Historical development of writing systems</li> <li>• Cognitive processes involved in speaking vs. writing</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4</b>	<p><b><i>Language change and history</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical linguistics and its significance</li> <li>• Factors influencing language change: social, political, and cultural</li> </ul> <p><b><i>First language acquisition: developmental stages</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stages of language development in children</li> <li>• Theories of language acquisition: Behaviorist, Innatist, Interactionist</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5</b>	<p><b><i>Theories of 1st language acquisition 1</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of key theories: Behaviorism and Innatism</li> <li>• Noam Chomsky's Universal Grammar theory</li> <li>• Interactionist theory and its key proponents</li> <li>• The role of environment and social interaction in language learning</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6</b>	<p><b><i>Role of environment in language development</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The significance of environment in language learning</li> <li>• Cultural and social factors influencing language acquisition</li> <li>• The role of family, peers, and education</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7</b>	<b><i>Midterm exam</i></b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<p><b><i>Second Language Learning + Acquisition vs learning</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to second language acquisition (SLA)</li> <li>• Differences between acquisition and learning</li> <li>• Key theories of second language acquisition</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Factors affecting L2 learning</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individual and external factors influencing L2 learning</li> <li>• Social and cultural influences on L2 learning</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b>	<p><b><i>Theories of second language learning 1</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behaviorist approaches to second language learning</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contrast between first and second language learning</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Theories of second language learning 2</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognitive and interactionist theories in second language learning</li> <li>• Krashen's Input Hypothesis and Monitor Model</li> <li>• Vygotsky's social interaction theory applied to SLA</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b>	<p><b><i>Learner Language: Interlanguage</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the concept of interlanguage</li> <li>• Stages of interlanguage development in L2 learners</li> <li>• Fossilization in second language learning</li> </ul> <p><b><i>L1 influence on L2 learning</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of the first language (L1) in second language acquisition</li> <li>• Positive and negative transfer from L1 to L2</li> <li>• Cross-linguistic influences: Phonology, grammar, and vocabulary</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11</b>	<p><b><i>Contrastive analysis hypothesis and error analysis</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis</li> <li>• Predicting learner errors through contrastive analysis</li> <li>• Error analysis in second language learning</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Language &amp; culture</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship between language and culture</li> <li>• Cultural influences on language use and communication styles</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12</b>	<p><b><i>Language and identity/gender</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The connection between language and identity</li> <li>• Gender differences in language use</li> <li>• Language as a marker of social identity</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Language and thought (Sapir Whorf Hypothesis)</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis</li> <li>• Linguistic determinism and linguistic relativity</li> </ul>
<b>Week 13</b>	<p><b><i>Language contact: language varieties</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of language contact on language development</li> <li>• Pidgins, creoles, and language varieties</li> </ul> <p><b><i>General Review</i></b></p>
<b>Week 14</b>	Evaluation

## 1.2. Teaching Methods and Pedagogical Resources

Chapter summaries , Oral Presentations , Class Discussions, Practice Exercises

## 1.3. Distance Learning Modalities (Ifapplicable)

Moodle, Google Classroom, and other platforms depending on the pedagogical team's choice and resource availability.

## 1.4. Description of Personal Work (Ifapplicable):

Further readings in language studies, independent research in language related topics, project work, etc

## 2. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

### 2.1. Evaluation Methods

- **Final Exam: 60%**
- **Continuous Assessment 40%** : Presentation/Case presentation, Case studies and assignments , Participation

*Note: Attendance counts for 5%*

### 2.2. Module Grade

1. A module is **validated** if the student obtains a grade equal to or greater than **10 out of 20**.
2. A module is **acquired through compensation** if the student passes the semester to which the module belongs, provided that the grade for the module is **not lower than 7 out of 20**.

## 3. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University. (1991). *Language files: Materials for an introduction to language*. Ohio State University Press.

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2021). *An introduction to language* (11th ed.). Cengage Learning.

O'Grady, W., Archibald, J., Aronoff, M., & Rees-Miller, J. (2019). *Contemporary linguistics: An introduction* (7th ed.). Bedford/St. Martin's.

Sadiqi, F., & Ennaji, M. (1999). *Introduction to modern linguistics*. Afrique-Orient.

Yule, G. (2016). *The study of language* (6th ed.). Cambridge University Press.

**For further information on the module and the program, Please refer to the overall bachelor program description on the official website or through this link :**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Suzn0cWKQuinYe0jpFzAq4MQ7s2I-EP2/view>