

ET323-15 Language, Society and Power

26/27

Department

Applied Linguistics

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Matthew Voice

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module aims to introduce students to concepts related to language and power. Students will develop the ability to analyse and reflect critically on their own and others' use of language and to relate linguistic use to various theoretical imaginings of power. You will investigate possible distributions of power through language in real life data and critically evaluate key concepts, models and research findings associated with language, and power. You will have the opportunity to design your own small scale research project focusing on a topic related to language use and power that you are really interested in.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This module will contribute primarily to the achievement of Course Aims # 3, # 6, #7, #9, #10:

The module introduces students to concepts related to language and power.

Students learn about approaches to what power is and how it is distributed across different times, cultures, and philosophical traditions.

Students will develop the ability to analyse and reflect critically on their own and others' use of

language and to relate linguistic use to various theoretical imaginings of power.
Students apply theories of power to real world data which they collect themselves.

1. Enable students to analyse language in general and the English language in particular at every level from the word to its place in society at large.
2. Give students a solid grasp of the theories and research findings related to language acquisition, language use and applied linguistics.
3. Enable students to develop knowledge and understanding of the nature of language and how it is used in communication between people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
4. Enable students to undertake an in-depth study of issues relating to English language and linguistics.
5. Enable students to develop the ability to learn independently and to gain intellectual breadth and flexibility.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

- What happens when people talk - Key notions relevant to this module
- Introduction to the concept of power
- Theories of power across time and schools of philosophical thought
- Power in conversation
- Powerful talk in context – political discourse
- Language analysis for determination of origin
- Spelling and society – language as gatekeeper
- Language in court – giving evidence as a non-standard speaker
- Corpus analysis of language – an introduction to media discourse.
- Hate speech - a history.
- Language, sex and gender.
- Language and ethnicity.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to: • Demonstrate a critical understanding of the relationship between Language, Gender and Power. • Understand the affordances and limitations of the main frameworks for analyzing language and gender and apply in analysing relevant data. • Engage critically with current • Demonstrate a critical understanding of the relationship between Language and Power

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

All assessment includes original research project. This involves the design as well as carrying out projects on core areas of module and programme overall.

Interdisciplinary

The module is designed to provide the students with a critical understanding of dominant traditions and methodologies associated with the study of language as it is linked to power and society. The study of societal structures and power structures has a long history in social sciences and the students use their linguistic training to find points of connections with other disciplines as well as their own distinctive ways of reading phenomena in general and data in particular.

International

The study of 'power' has different histories in different traditions. The module encourages and empowers the students to look into these trajectories and critically question the role of 'society' and the possible instantiations of 'power' in relation to different societal, professional and linguistic contexts. The assessment involves students working in groups with academic and ideally non-academic stakeholders which (will) allow for a global and local outlook to be built into the module's work.

Subject specific skills

Carry out analyses of discourse data using both quantitative and qualitative methods;
Demonstrate skills in Conversation Analysis, Corpus Linguistics and Critical Discourse Analysis in Language and Power;
Understand and explain key concepts, models and research findings in Language and Power;
Demonstrate responsiveness to the central role of language in the creation of meaning and a sensitivity to the affective Power of discourse.
Critically discuss the relationship between Language and Power in different professional and everyday contexts;
Critically evaluate key concepts, models and research findings associated with Language and Power.

Transferable skills

Work effectively with others in group tasks;
Plan and manage time in projects;
Find, evaluate and use previous research at a level appropriate for a final year module.
Use a range of tools and resources effectively in the preparation of course work.
Use appropriate quantitative and qualitative analytic methods to analyse research data on Language, Society and Power;
Analyse research data on Language, Society and Power using relevant concepts and frameworks

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Other activity	4 hours (3%)
Private study	119 hours (79%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading subject materials; homework tasks; assignments; revision

Other activity description

Revision sessions

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Critical Analysis	40%		Yes (extension)
Students will choose from a range of available texts (including newspaper articles, political speeches, and transcripts of conversation), and produce a linguistically focused critical analysis, drawing on theories of language and power explored across the module. Students may instead suggest their own text to analyse, subject to the module leader's approval.			

Weighting

Study time

Eligible for self-certification

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Project 60% Yes (extension)

Students gather ethically approved data, process and analyse it appropriately and present it in academic journal format, reflecting on methodology, results, implications and future directions.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on the assignment will be provided on the Centre's standard feedback sheets, which conform to Faculty regulations. This will include both summary and detailed feedback. Where appropriate, additional feedback may be provided via personal meetings with the tutor.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of UPSA-C802 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 3 of UETA-Q1T6 Undergraduate Linguistics with Arabic
- Year 4 of UPSA-C805 Undergraduate Psychology with Linguistics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UETA-X3Q5 Undergraduate Language, Culture and Communication
- Year 4 of UETA-X3Q8 Undergraduate Language, Culture and Communication (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UETA-Q1A9 Undergraduate Linguistics with Arabic (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UETA-Q1T1 Undergraduate Linguistics with Chinese
- Year 4 of UETA-Q1A7 Undergraduate Linguistics with Chinese (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UETA-Q1R1 Undergraduate Linguistics with French
- UETA-Q1A1 Undergraduate Linguistics with French (with Intercalated Year)

- Year 3 of Q1A1 Linguistics with French (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of Q1A1 Linguistics with French (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UETA-Q1R2 Undergraduate Linguistics with German
- Year 4 of UETA-Q1A2 Undergraduate Linguistics with German (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UETA-Q1T2 Undergraduate Linguistics with Japanese
- UETA-Q1A8 Undergraduate Linguistics with Japanese (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 3 of Q1A8 Linguistics with Japanese (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of Q1A8 Linguistics with Japanese (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UETA-Q1R7 Undergraduate Linguistics with Russian
- Year 4 of UETA-Q1A6 Undergraduate Linguistics with Russian (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UETA-Q1R4 Undergraduate Linguistics with Spanish
- UETA-Q1A4 Undergraduate Linguistics with Spanish (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 3 of Q1A4 Linguistics with Spanish (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of Q1A4 Linguistics with Spanish (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UETA-Q310 in English Language and Linguistics
- Year 4 of UETA-Q311 in English Language and Linguistics (with Intercalated year)