

SYLLABUS

for

TDC ELECTIVE COURSE in LINGUISTICS

Gauhati University

Course overview

Year	Semester	Name of Paper	Paper Code	Marks	Credits	Contact hours per week
First Year	1 st Semester	Language and Linguistics	E-101	100	6	6
	2 nd Semester	Levels of Linguistic Analysis	E-102	100	6	6
Second Year	3 rd Semester	Linguistic Fieldwork and Language Documentation	E-201	100	6	6
	4 th Semester	Literacy and Mother Tongue Based Multi Lingual Education	E-202	100	6	6
Third Year	5 th Semester	Languages of Assam	E-301	100	6	6
	6 th Semester	Language in Literature and Society	E-302	100	6	6

Assessment Scheme

Total Marks for each paper:	100
End-of-semester examination:	80
Internal Assessment:	20

Internal Assessment will be based on the following modes:

- Sessional Test
- Home Assignment
- Seminar/Project
- Oral Test

Aims

- to introduce students to the basic notions about language
- to introduce them to the relevant aspects of linguistics (which is often described as the scientific study of language)
- to enable students to have an idea of the methods of handling language data and doing linguistic analysis
- to help students gain familiarity about the methods of collecting data through linguistic fieldwork and the need for language documentation in the context of Assam
- to make students aware of the importance of promoting literacy in the mother tongue and other tongues with reference to the multi-lingual context of Assam
- to introduce representative languages of the various language families spoken in Assam in terms of their main demographic, ethnographic and linguistic features
- to show how the study of language can contribute to the understanding of literature and society

FIRST YEAR

Semester I

E-101 Language and Linguistics

The uniqueness of human language; the grammatical backbone; language and meaning; variation in language; change in language; language in use; attitudes to language.

The sounds of language (phonetics); the sound patterns of language (phonology); the word of language (morphology); the sentence patterns of language (syntax); the meanings of language (semantics).

Some key concepts: diachrony and synchrony, syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations, langue and parole, competence and performance, traditional grammar, descriptive linguistics and transformational grammar.

*Suggested texts:

1. *Language: the basics* by R.L. Trask (1995). Routledge. (Indian edition)
2. *An Introduction to language* by V. Fromkin, R. Rodman and N. Hyams (2003). Heinle and Thompson.
3. *Linguistics: a very short introduction* by P.H. Matthews. (2003) Oxford University Press

Semester II

E-102 Levels of Linguistic Analysis

Articulatory phonetics; phonological analysis; sentences and constituent structure: immediate constituent analysis; the analysis of word meaning and sentence meaning.

*Suggested texts:

1. *Vowels and consonants* by Peter Ladefoged (2001). Blackwell.
2. *Phonological analysis* by Burquest and Payne. SIL.
3. *An introduction to language* by V. Fromkin, R. Rodman and N. Hyams (2003). Heinle and Thompson.

SECOND YEAR

Semester III

E-201 Linguistic Fieldwork and language documentation

The nature of language data; modes and methods of collecting language data: introspection; questionnaires and interviews; spontaneous data; good practices in proactively engaging with concerned language speaking communities in a post-colonialist scenario.

The issue of language endangerment considered globally and in the context of Assam; in this context, the need for language documentation as an important aspect of language description.

*Suggested texts:

1. *Field linguistics* by William Samarin. Mouton
2. *When languages die* by K.David Harrison. Oxford University Press
3. *Language death* by David Crystal. Cambridge University Press

Semester IV

E-202 Literacy and Multi-lingual Education

Literacy: its functional definition in the context of the languages of Assam; the need and rationale for creating educational opportunities of the speakers of minority language communities of Assam;

Mother-tongue based multi-lingual education: rationale, methodology, case studies; transition from the mother tongue to the language of wider communication (LWC): issues and challenges;

*Suggested texts:

1. *Working together for literacy* by Mary Stringer
2. *Improving the quality of mother tongue-based literacy and learning*. UNESCO
Bangkok

THIRD YEAR

Semester V

E-301 Languages of Assam

Ethnographic, demographic and linguistic descriptions, in outline, of the representative languages belonging to the Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman, Austro-Asiatic and Tai families spoken in Assam.

*Suggested texts:

1. *Indo Aryan languages* edited by George Cardona and Dhanesh Jain
2. *The language of Madhupur Mandi* by Robbins Burling
3. *Rabha* by U.V. Joseph
4. *The Tai languages of Assam* by Stephen Morey

Semester VI

E-302 Language in literature and society

The language of literature as an object of enquiry: stylistic analysis of literary texts;
The place of language in society and of society in language

*Suggested texts:

1. *An introduction to language* by V. Fromkin, R. Rodman and N. Hyams (2003). Heinle and Thompson.
2. *Sociolinguistics* by Peter Trudgill. Penguin.
3. *Stylistics* by Turner. Penguin.

N.B.:

* Other suitable reading materials for the various papers of this course will be made available soon.