



RTU Course "Modern Methods of Text Analysis"

01A01 Speciālā lietojuma valodu katedra

General data

Code	VIA605
Course title	Modern Methods of Text Analysis
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Course level	Post-graduate Studies
Course type	Professional
Field of study	Languages
Responsible instructor	Larisa Iljinska
Academic staff	Tatjana Smirnova
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 2.0 Credit Points, 3.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN, RU
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Abstract	This course provides students with a necessary knowledge and skills of text analysis (discourse/register/genre analysis). The course consists of lectures, seminars and workshops in the following areas: study of discourse/register/genre theory; an examination of text analysis tools based on discourse/ register/genre theory; discussion of strategies for reading and writing based on functional grammar and discourse/register/genre theory; modern computer- and corpus-based text analysis tools.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	<p>The aim of the course: The following course sketches a methodology for detailed text-analysis, with particular emphasis on how to approach a text in the scientific-technical field. The course will concentrate on the fundamental analysis traditions (grounded theory, classic content analysis, and semantic, pragmatic and semiotic analyses) and modern text analysis tools (computer and corpus based analyses).</p> <p>.Objectives of the course. During the course the students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •identify text types, and choose the relevant methods of analysis; •move to principles of text organization (from the macro-to the micro-level) and to textual functions associated with clause- and sentence
Structure and tasks of independent studies	During the course students have to write various essays, reports, summaries, as well as develop research project on the topics covered. Each student will select a complete text (ca. 6000 - 8000 words) to analyze for the duration of the semester.
Recommended literature	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adolphs, S. (2006) <i>Introducing Electronic Text Analysis: A Practical Guide for Language and Literary Studies</i>. Routledge, UK 2. Blommaert, J. (2005). <i>Discourse</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 3. Brown, G., and George Yule (2000). <i>Discourse Analysis</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 4. Carter, R. (2007). <i>Investigating English Discourse</i>. London: Routledge. 5. Gee, J. P. (2005). <i>An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method</i>. London: Routledge. 6. Bhatia, V. K. (1993) <i>Analyzing Genre: Language Use in Professional Settings (Applied Linguistics and Language Study)</i>, Addison Wesley Publishing Company 7. Johnstone, B. (2002). <i>Discourse analysis</i>. Oxford: Blackwell. 8. Rudanko, J. (1997) <i>Linguistic Analysis and Text Interpretation</i>. University Press of America 9. Semino E., Culpeper J. (2002) <i>Cognitive Stylistics: Language and Cognition in Text Analysis (Linguistic Approaches to Literature)</i> John Benjamins Publishing Co 10. Verdonk, P. (2002) <i>Stylistics</i>. Oxford University Press, UK 11. Widdowson, H. G. (2004) <i>Text, Context, Pretext: Critical Issues in Discourse Analysis (Language in Society)</i> Blackwell Publishing Limited, UK
Course prerequisites	English language skills at B2 level according to CEFR

Course outline

Theme	Hours
The approaches to text analysis. Text typologies as a didactic instrument.	2
The approaches to text analysis. Text typologies as a didactic instrument.	2
Text functions. Informative, expressive and vocative texts. Intra-textual and extra-textual features.	2
Text stylistics. Cohesion and coherence.	2
Hierarchical text structure. Strong positions. Word, sentence, paragraph.	2
Hybrid texts. The problem of hybridity.	2
Methods of text analysis. Functions of analysis.	2
Discourse and register analysis.	2
Pragmatic approach. Context and translation.	2
The various levels or dimensions of discourse	2

Genre and related textual values. Genre in translation.	2
Multidimensional nature of scientific technical texts.	2
Scientific text organization. Research vocabulary. Academic discourse.	2
Types of technical texts. Terminology. Lexical fields.	2
Textual analysis in translation studies. Methods of translation analysis.	2
Natural language processing as a sub-field of artificial intelligence and linguistics.	2

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to recognize the type (scientific technical text in particular), composition principles, and textual functions of the text and select a respective analysis method.	Students analyze scientific technical text, writing reports, summaries, essays. The volume of the text analyzed: 6,000 -8,000 words. Assessment: exam. Evaluation: mark according to 10 grade scale.
Students are able to analyze text units that determine text meaning at various levels (words, collocations, sentences, paragraphs, etc.)	Students use various methods of analysis (semantic, pragmatic, classic, etc.). Assessment: seminars, exam. Evaluation: mark according to 10 grade scale.
Students are able to compare and contrast functional styles of the source and target texts.	Assessment: essays, exam. Evaluation: mark according to 10 grade scale.
Students are able to develop a text analysis research project on a selected topic.	Assessment: presentation, seminar.

Study subject structure

Part	CP	ECTS	Hours per Week			Tests		
			Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	2.0	3.0	2.0	0.0	0.0		*	