



## RTU Course "Semantics and Pragmatics in Translation"

01A01 Speciālā lietojuma valodu katedra

### General data

Code	VIA611
Course title	Semantics and Pragmatics in Translation
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 Iļjinska
Academic staff	Marina Platonova
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 2.0 Credit Points, 3.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Abstract	The first part of the course deals with meaning in language ranging from words to texts. The second part gives insights into theories of language use, particularly the part of pragmatics. It is explored to what degree meaning of a word depends on linguistic, conceptual, or contextual knowledge. The course will cover: (1) various approaches to the interpretation of various theories in the fields of Semantics and Pragmatics, (2) the principles of pragmatic and semantic analyses of selected scientific technical texts. The course content is based on appropriate examples from the translations of professional literature. Acquisition of the course is through a combination of lectures and guided seminars. Throughout the course, the students are encouraged to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject as well as to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	<p>The aim of the course: The aim of the course is to expand students' knowledge of the central ideas in the field of semantics and pragmatics, as well as to introduce some of its most important researchers. The course aims at keeping track of all the relevant developments and bright ideas in the respective field. It is concerned with the place of semantics and pragmatics within linguistics and their relations with translation studies. The course aims at widening students' appreciation of language in general and sharpening their awareness of syntactical, semantic and stylistic differences between languages and discourses.</p> <p>Objectives of the course. During the course the students should acq</p>
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.
Recommended literature	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bennett, Paul (2002). Semantics: an introduction to non-lexical aspects of meaning. LINCOM.</li> <li>2. Carston, R. (2002) Thoughts and utterances. Oxford: Blackwell.</li> <li>3. Cruse, A. (2010) Meaning in Language. Oxford: OUP.</li> <li>4. Hickey L., ed. (1998) The Pragmatics of Translation. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.</li> <li>5. Huang, Y. (2006) Pragmatics. Oxford: OUP.</li> <li>6. Hurford J. (2007) Semantics: a Coursebook, CUP, GB</li> <li>7. Levinson, S. C. (2000) Presumptive meanings. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.</li> <li>8. Löbner, S. 2002. Understanding semantics. London: Arnold.</li> <li>9. Mey J. L. (2001) Pragmatics. Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, UK.</li> <li>10. Murphy, M. L. (2003) Semantic relations and the lexicon. Cambridge.</li> <li>11. Saeed J.I. (2011) Semantics (Introducing Linguistics) Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, Oxford, UK.</li> </ol>
Course prerequisites	English language skills at level B2 according to CEFR

### Course outline

Theme	Hours
Semantics in Linguistics. Semantic Theories.	2
Language and Meaning. Words, Concepts and Thinking.	2
Semantic Description. Word Meaning. Words and Lexical Items.	2
Lexical Relations: Polysemy, Homonymy, Synonymy, Antonymy.	2
Lexical Relations: Hyponymy, Meronymy, Member Collection, Metaphor, Metonymy, Allusion.	2
Terminology.	2
Semantics and Semiotics.	2
Pragmatic Aspects. Pragmatic Principles. Metapragmatics.	2
Sentence Semantics: Situations.	2
Choice of words in compliance with Discourse, Register, Genre.	2
Context, Implicature and Reference.	2
Context and Style. Cohesion and Coherence.	2

Pragmatics across Cultures.	2
Social Aspects of Pragmatics.	2
Language and Manipulation. Critical Pragmatics: The Lancaster School.	2
Semantics and Pragmatics in Translation. Theory and Practice.	2

***Learning outcomes and assessment***

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to grasp linguistic and extra linguistic relationships in language use in connection with translation studies, research methods, principles and approaches.	Assessment: theoretical knowledge and written works (participation at seminars, report, essay, summary). Evaluation: 10 grade scale.
Students are able to acquire research and academic skills for independent meaning analysis at various levels.	Assessment: essay, report, summary, analytical discourse. Evaluation: mark according to 10 grade scale
Students are able to improve analytical skills in studying linguistic meaning and research definite study course themes.	Students analyze and study the basics of technical literature in the chosen field and prepare research project on selected theme. Assessment: project. Evaluation: mark according to 10 grade scale.
Students are able to acquire skills in analyzing translation, relating semantic and pragmatic aspects of translation with translation methods.	Students present scientific research project on selected theme and semantic and pragmatic aspects of translation. Evaluation: mark according to 10 grade scale.

***Study subject structure***

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