

**BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC NAM CẦN THƠ**



**GIÁO TRÌNH
DẪN LUẬN NGÔN NGỮ**

Ngành: Ngôn Ngữ Anh

LÊ TRUNG KIÊN

Thạc Sĩ

Cần Thơ, tháng 05 năm 2024

BỘ GIÁO DỤC VÀ ĐÀO TẠO
TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC NAM CẦN THƠ

GIÁO TRÌNH
DẪN LUẬN NGÔN NGỮ

Ngành: Ngôn Ngữ Anh

CHỦ BIÊN: THS. LÊ TRUNG KIÊN

THÀNH VIÊN BIÊN SOẠN: THS. NGUYỄN THỊ MỸ HOA

Cần Thơ, tháng 05 năm 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 WHAT IS LANGUAGE?	1
1. LINGUISTIC KNOWLEDGE.....	1
2. LINGUISTIC KNOWLEDGE AND PERFORMANCE	6
3. WHAT IS GRAMMAR?	7
4. LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS.....	10
5. THE DEVELOPMENT OF GRAMMAR	11
6. WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HUMAN LANGUAGE.....	12
7. SIGN LANGUAGES: EVIDENCE FOR THE INNATENESS OF LANGUAGE.....	14
8. ANIMAL “LANGUAGES”	16
CHAPTER 2 MORPHOLOGY: THE WORDS OF LANGUAGE.....	22
1. DICTIONARIES.....	23
2. CONTENT WORDS AND FUNCTION WORDS	23
3. MORPHEMES: THE MINIMAL UNITS OF MEANING	25
4. RULES OF WORD FORMATION.....	32
5. OTHER MORPHOLOGICAL PROCESSES.....	42
6. MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS: IDENTIFYING MORPHEMES.....	47
CHAPTER 3 SYNTAX – THE SENTENCE PATTERNS OF LANGUAGE.....	52
1. WHAT THE SYNTAX RULES DO	52
2. WHAT GRAMMATICALITY IS NOT BASED ON	56
3. SENTENCE STRUCTURE	58
4. CONSTITUENTS AND CONSTITUENT TESTS.....	59
5. SYNTACTIC CATEGORIES	61
6. PHRASE STRUCTURE TREES AND RULES	64
7. HEADS AND COMPLEMENTS	70
CHAPTER 4 THE MEANING OF LANGUAGE.....	73
1. WHAT SPEAKERS KNOW ABOUT SENTENCE MEANING.....	74
2. COMPOSITIONAL SEMANTICS	76
3. WHEN COMPOSITIONALITY GOES AWRY.....	79

4. LEXICAL SEMANTICS (WORD MEANINGS).....	85
5. PRAGMATICS	92
CHAPTER 5 PHONOLOGY	101
1. THE TERM OF PHONOLOGY	101
2. MORPHEMES	102
3. PHONEMES: THE PHONOLOGICAL UNITS OF LANGUAGE.....	105
4. THE RULES OF PHONOLOGY	113
5. PROSODIC PHONOLOGY	122
CHAPTER 6 PHONETICS	127
1. IDENTITY OF SPEECH SOUNDS	127
2. THE PHONETIC ALPHABET	128
3. ARTICULATORY PHONETICS.....	131
4. PHONETIC SYMBOLS FOR AMERICAN ENGLISH CONSONANTS.....	136
5. VOWELS	138
6. MAJOR PHONETIC CLASSES	145
REFERENCES	151

PREFACE

“An introduction to language” is a material aimed to provide students with knowledge regarding language in general and English in detail. In particular, there are 6 chapters presented in it, namely “What is language?” (Chapter 1), “Morphology: the words of language” (Chapter 2), “Syntax: the sentence patterns of language” (Chapter 3), “The meaning of language” (Chapter 4), “Phonology” (Chapter 5), and Phonetics (Chapter 6).

Chapter 1 focuses on the definition of “language” and other related aspects such as “linguistic knowledge”, “linguistic performance”. Chapter 2 is focused on analyzing the “words”, mainly giving students their step-by-step formation as well as explaining its process. Chapter 3 first aims to give an overview before continuing with detailed explanations on how sentences are formed in patterns. Chapter 4 helps students gain knowledge of the meaning of “language”, which includes but is not limited to “anomalies”, “metaphors” and “idioms”. Finally, chapters 5 and 6 dig into the sound aspects of language, including investigating the patterns of sound system and speech sounds.

By working through this book, it is expected that students will gain general knowledge of different aspects of learning language; thus, carving a smooth path for their later acquisition of somewhat challenging related information.