



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA
FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

Course Title: Psycholinguistics

Course Leader/Lecturer: Etleva Kondi PhD

Contact Classes: 4 credits (= 40 contact classes); Lecture: 1.5 credits (= 15 contact classes);
Seminar: 2.5 credits (= 25 contact classes)

Academic Year/Semester: 2023-2024, Year I, Semester I

Course Type: Compulsory

Code of Ethics: Code of Ethics of the UT (Articles 4,6,7,9)

Study Program: Master of Science in “English Language Teaching for Upper Secondary Education”

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SUMMARY AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is an introduction to the field of psycholinguistics and studies the psychological processes underlying the acquisition, production, and comprehension of language.

The course focuses on the psychological mechanisms used for the acquisition of language. A common misconception is that one learns about the specifics of particular languages in a course on psycholinguistics; for example, how Albanian uses different case-endings than German. Instead, this course emphasizes the commonalities that underlie human languages everywhere, and we will focus on what these commonalities tell us about the basic nature of the human language-making capacity.

Issues like the connection of language with thought and memory, the connection of culture with language, the biological basis of the language, the acquisition of sentences, their understanding, and ambiguity are treated in this course. An important part of the course are first language acquisition, acquisition of a foreign language, language production, speech perception, structuring sentences, remembering sentences, processing discourse and having conversations.

This course aims to make students able:

- to develop understanding of the relationship between language and the processes of the brain and mind.
- to develop detailed knowledge of basic sub-fields of psycholinguistics, including the biological bases of language (language & the brain), speech perception, the lexicon, sentence processing, discourse, speech production and language acquisition.
- to understand basic language production and perception data and how these data have contributed to the development of the major theories in psycholinguistics.
- to gain a deeper understanding of the psychological processes in acquiring a foreign language.

At the end of the course, the students are able:

- to know and analyze the basic issues on speech perception, lexical recognition, sentence and text break up and the acquisition of language and reading skills.
- to describe and explain the basic issues on the biological basis of language and on the way language is acquired, processed and stored.
- to understand the relationship between applied linguistics, second language acquisition, and psycholinguistics, and have the potential to study applied linguistics and SLA from a psycholinguistic perspective.