



SYLLABUS

The Sociolinguistics of Identity

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Information about the study program

1.1. University	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	The Faculty of Letters
1.3. Department	English Language and Literature
1.4. Field of study	Philology
1.5. Study cycle (BA/MA)	Master
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	British Cultural Studies /MA in Philology
1.7. Enrolment frequency	Full time

2. Information about the subject

2.1. Course title		The Sociolinguistics of Identity (taught in English)				Course code		LME2111	
2.2. Course tutor				Lecturer Alexandra Cotoc					
2.3. Seminar / practical course (laboratory) tutor				Lecturer Alexandra Cotoc					
2.4. Year of study	2	2.5. Semester	3	2.6. Type of assessment	E	2.7. Course status	Contents	DS	
							Mandatory	DO	

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2 course	1	3.3 seminar	2
3.4 Total number of hours in the curriculum	42	of which: 3.5 course	14	3.6 seminar	28
Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					
Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)					40
Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation)					28
Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports					28
Tutoring					10
Assessment (examinations)					2
Other activities:					
3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					108
3.8. Total hours per semester					150
3.9. Number of credits					6

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	-
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4.2. skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - good knowledge of English – advanced level - theoretical notions and synthetic perspectives in the field of linguistics - basic notions of the practice of elaborating and presenting the scientific work.
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5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for delivering lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture hall equipped with laptop, audio-video system, Internet access, video projector • handouts, books • MsTeams platform, digital resources and digital apps and tools
5.2. for teaching seminars / practical courses (laboratory classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar room, laptop, audio-video system, Internet access, video projector • handouts, books • MsTeams platform, digital resources and digital apps and tools

6. Acquired specific skills

Professional/essential skills	<p>C1 Use of metalanguage in the fields of Sociolinguistics, Internet linguistics, Discourse Analysis</p> <p>C2 Investigation, research, and analysis of discourses by using specialized terminology</p> <p>C3 Explanation of current linguistic phenomena by using current linguistic theories</p> <p>C4 critical thinking of current trends in Sociolinguistics and Discourse Analysis</p> <p>C5 Ability to operate with different theoretical frameworks.</p> <p>C6 Interdisciplinary competence and ability to understand and provide different perspectives on the same linguistic phenomena.</p>
Transversal skills	<p>CT1 Digital competence</p> <p>CT2 Communication skills and presentation skills, creativity, critical thinking, cultural understanding</p> <p>CT3 Locating, accessing information and selecting relevant information, analysing and evaluating media content.</p> <p>CT3 collaborative skills, teamwork, problem solving</p>

7. Course objectives (derived from the acquired specific skills)

7.1 General objective of course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course consolidates topics pertaining to communication and identity construction, the language-identity nexus and identities in action in various online and face-to-face contexts. As identity construction involves a multi-faced process, some of the topics discussed include: identity in sociolinguistics, individual and group identity, culture, intercultural communication, online and face-to-face identity, discursive practices and strategies to construct an identity, professional identity and professional communication. We will also focus on various online communities and we will examine the sociolinguistics, Internet linguistics and discourse analysis aspects that constitute the theoretical underpinning of the course.
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be able to discuss and analyse theoretical issues in the field of sociolinguistics and discourse analysis in order to describe identity construction situations; they will be able to analyse the complex relation between language and identity, to critically analyse and discuss specialised texts, select and work with corpus in order to verify linguistic theories.

8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Remarks
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Establishing the Theoretical Framework Keywords: multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinarity, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis, data, types, corpus, qualitative and quantitative research	enhanced lecture, discussion	
Identity Construction: Theories Keywords: multiple dimensions, social construct, identification, community, engagement, nexus of practice	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving	
Identity Construction: Social Identity. Group and Individual Identity Keywords: identity, language, culture, discourse analysis, critical discourse analysis,	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving	
Narrative identity Keywords: discourse, content, exposure, stories, multimodality	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving	
Identity: Language and Style Keywords: style, audience design, discourse features, social and pragmatic markers	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving	
Identity-Language Nexus Keywords: social variation, speech accommodation, convergence, divergence, register, jargon, slang	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving	
Globalization. Global Identity Keywords: intercultural competence and communication, global identity, local idiosyncrasies, migration, diaspora	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving	
Cyber-identity. Online Discourse and Representation Keywords: cyberspace, bricolage, constructing the other, multimodal identity	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving	
Cyber-identity. Blommaert's Theory Keywords: new identities, norms, integration, anomie, ordered indexicalities, social fact, microhegemony, light identity	enhanced lecture, debate, problem solving	
<p>Bibliography Blommaert, Jan (2017). <i>Durkheim and the Internet. Sociolinguistics and the Sociological Imagination</i>, London, New York, Oxford, New Delhi, Sydney: Bloomsbury Academic Cotoc Alexandra (coordinating editor), Cotrău, Diana, Papuc Oana (co-editors) (2024), <i>How Youth Culture Articulates. A Languageculture Incursion into Subcultural Assemblages</i>, Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană, ISBN: 978-606-37-2275-2. Cotoc Alexandra and Cotrău Diana-Roxana (eds.) (2022), <i>Textual Negotiation of Online Identities</i>, Volume 67 (LXVII) 2022, December 4, DOI:10.24193/subbphil.2022.4. Available at: http://www.studia.ubbcluj.ro/download/pdf/1465.pdf Cotoc, Alexandra (2017) <i>Language and Identity in Cyberspace. A Multidisciplinary Approach</i>, Cluj-Napoca: Presa Universitară Clujeană. Crystal, David (2011) <i>Internet Linguistics: A Student Guide</i>, London and New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. Deters, P. (2011) <i>Identity, Agency and Acquisition of Professional Language and Culture</i>, New York: Continuum Edwards, J. (2009) <i>Language and Identity. Key Topics in Sociolinguistics</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press. Hartley, John, Burgess, Jean and Bruns Axel (eds.), <i>A Companion to New Media Dynamics</i>, Wiley-Blackwell</p>		



Richards, K. (2006) *Language and Professional Identity. Aspects of Collaborative Interaction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan
Omoniyi, T. and White G. (eds.) (2006) *The Sociolinguistics of Identity*, London: Continuum
Jenkins, R. (2008) *Social Identity, Third Edition*. London and New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group.
Papacharissi, Z. (ed.) (2011) *A Networked Self. Identity, Community, and Culture on Social Network Sites*. New York and London: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group
Taylor, G. and Spencer, S. (2004) *Social Identities. Multidisciplinary approaches*, London and New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group
Tannen, D., Hamilton, H. E. Schiffirin, D. (2015) *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis. Second Edition*. Volume II, UK: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
Yule, G. (2020) *The Study of Language*. Fourth Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

8.2 Seminar / practical course (laboratory class)	Teaching methods	Remarks
Identity – an interdisciplinary concept Keywords: representation, agency, gender, cultural identity, discourse	Student papers, debate, case study, text analysis	
Narrative identity Keywords: content, exposure, discourse, digital storytelling	Student papers, debate, text analysis, case study	
Group and Individual Identity Keywords: national identity, cultural identity, collaborative identity, English character and identity	Student papers, debate, text analysis, case study	
Global identity Keywords: local identity, glocal identity, linguistic identity, code-switching, multilingual practices, pastiche self	Student papers, debate, text analysis, case study	
Online Discourse and Representation Keywords: socialisation, Netiquette, interactivity, hypertext, Netspeak principles	Student papers, debate, text analysis, case study	
Professional Communication and Identity Keywords: collaborative identity, negotiation, constructing the other, interaction	Student papers, debate, text analysis, case study	

Bibliography
Bell, Allan and Andy Gibson (2011), "Staging language: An introduction to the sociolinguistics of performance", in *Journal of Sociolinguistics* 15/5, pp. 555–572.
Buckingham, D. (ed.). (2007) *Youth, Identity, and Digital Media*. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Series on Digital Media and Learning. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
Dervin, F. and Abbas, Y (eds.). (2009) *Digital Technologies of the Self*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholar Publishing,
Chouliarakis, L. and Fairclough, N. (1999) *Discourse in Late Modernity. Rethinking Critical Discourse Analysis*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
Crystal, D. (2006) *Language and the Internet, second edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Crystal, D. (2011) *Internet Linguistics. A Student Guide*, London and New Work: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
Jersey, Anne (2016), "In the Time of the Microcelebrity: Celebrification and the YouTuber Zoella", in *International Journal of Communication* 10, pp. 5233-5251.
Joseph, John E. (2004) *Language and Identity: National, Ethnic, Religious*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
Papacharissi, Zizi (ed.). 2011. *A Networked Self. Identity, Community, and Culture on Social Network Sites*. New York and London: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group.
Preece, Siân (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Identity*, London and New York: Routledge. Taylor and Francis
Richards, K. (2006) *Language and Professional Identity. Aspects of Collaborative Interaction*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.



Seargeant, Philip and Tagg Caroline (eds.), *The Language of Social Media. Identity and Community on the Internet*, Palgrave Macmillan.

9. Validating course contents based on the expectations of epistemic communities, professional associations and of potential employers related to the field of study.

- Specialist content is in accordance with similar courses taught at prestigious universities at home and abroad.
- The theme is elaborated on the basis of the specialized and up-to-date bibliography in the field.
- Some of the components of the course and seminar were presented at national and international conferences.

10. Assessment (examination)

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Weight in the final grade
10.4 Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the concepts and theories presented were assimilated and students' ability to use them in order to analyse the language-identity nexus and write scientific papers. • Good command of the English language. 	Written paper	60%
10.5 Seminar/practical course (laboratory class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The capacity to identify and analyse identity construction strategies in various discourses 	Students' seminar presentations	20%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The critical discussion of theories and concepts • Using the theories and concepts in various tasks and assignments 	Students' activity and contribution during the seminar: tasks and assignments	20%
10.6 Basic performance standard			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the main concepts in the fields of Sociolinguistics, Discourse Analysis, Internet linguistics • Overall vision of the domain • Use of interdisciplinary methods • Reading specialised literature • Using AI tools for generating ideas or discourse is allowed only with the tutor's permission and with explicit acknowledgment. This applies to both class discussions or assessment tasks and examinations. Unauthorized use of AI amounts to plagiarism. According to UBB regulations, plagiarism of any type triggers expulsion from university studies. 			

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

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	General label for Sustainable Development

Date:

05.02.2025

Course tutor's name and signature

Lecturer Alexandra Cotoc

Seminar tutor's name and signature /
Practical course tutor's (Laboratory tutor's)
name and signature,

Lecturer Alexandra Cotoc

Date of approval:

14.02.2025

Head of Department's name and signature,

Popa-Petrar Petronia

Date of approval
Name and signature of Dean