

Course report

ENG341 Selected topics in English linguistics II: Grammaticalization, lexicalization, degrammaticalization

Fall 2018

Teacher: Jerzy Nykiel

ENG341 is a 10 credit course composed of 8 sessions. The course introduces students to the research on three interrelated linguistic phenomena, i.e. grammaticalization, lexicalization, and degrammaticalization. The course also gives the students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with research on language data relevant to the three phenomena. The textbooks used in the course were:

- Brinton, Laurel J. and Elizabeth Closs Traugott 2005. *Lexicalization and Language Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Hopper, Paul J. and Elizabeth Closs Traugott (2nd edition, 2003) *Grammaticalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

The number of registered students was 15. The sessions were attended regularly by 3-4 students as most students were L students and a period of their teaching practice overlapped with the classes. During the sessions the students were introduced the theory of grammaticalization, lexicalization, and degrammaticalization, were involved in discussions of the previous research, and they were also familiarized with the ways of retrieving relevant data from digital corpora of English and from the Oxford English Dictionary online.

In the course of the semester every student was required to submit two drafts of the final paper. Having submitted a draft, the student received written feedback and was required to attend a supervision meeting with the teacher. Altogether 13 students submitted both drafts and attended the supervision meetings. The idea behind the semester paper was that every student was to do their own research through first obtaining language data from digital corpora of English and then performing an analysis of these data.

Student evaluation was carried out in the form of an online questionnaire. 7 students sent in their replies. They were very satisfied with the course (the results of the evaluation are attached in the other file).

Exam

13 students took the exam in the form of a semester paper. The results were as follows:

A - 3 = 23%
B - 4 = 31%
C - 3 = 23%
D - 2 = 15%
E - 1 = 8%
F - 0 = 0%

Teacher's evaluation

Generally the course has produced more than satisfactory results. In spite of the students' poor attendance, the final papers show that the students were able for the most part to do solid grammaticalization-related research.

There were a few students very interested in the content of the course throughout the semester. The evaluation method is exceptionally well adjusted to the organization and scope of the course.