

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LINGUISTICS

Associate Professor & Head of Department

SR Simango, BA (Malawi), Dip TESOL
(Manchester), MSc (Edinburgh), PhD (SCarolina)

Professor

RD Adendorff, BA (Hons), HDE (Rhodes), MA
(Indiana), PhD (Natal)

Associate Professor

MA de Vos BJourn (Rhodes), MPhil (Tromsø),
PhD (Leiden),

Senior Lecturers

SA Hunt, BJourn, BA (Hons), MA, PhD (Rhodes)
W Bennett, BA (Carleton College), PhD (Rutgers)

Lecturers

I Siebörger, MA (Rhodes)
KC van der Merwe, MA (Stellenbosch)

Teaching Assistants

To be appointed

The object of courses in English Language and Linguistics is to develop students' understanding of language systems and behaviour in the context of human communication and society. The focus is on language within the South African context, though there are modules involving additional languages at all levels. Linguistics is an important component in the study of people and their culture, and of potential interest to students planning Humanities, Social Science or Law degrees, as well as being of practical value to those specifically intending to qualify as journalists and language teachers. Students are also encouraged to combine English Language and Linguistics with a major in another language. English Language and Linguistics is a three-year major subject. Entrance to the course is open to students in all faculties.

Module Themes

Module 1: Sound systems: Sounds of the World (HEQSF 5), Phonetics & Phonology (HEQSF 6+7)

Module 2: Sociolinguistics: Language in South Africa and Society (HEQSF6), Sociolinguistics (HEQSF 6+7)

Module 3: Semantics: Semantics and Meaning - making in Language (HEQSF 5), Semantics (HEQSF 6+7)

Module 4: African Linguistics (HEQSF 5), African Linguistics (HEQSF 6+7)

Module 5: Psycholinguistics: Language in

Childhood and Education (HEQSF 5) Second Language Learning & Language Disorders (HEQSF 6+7)

Module 6: Syntax: Language structures and Syntax (HEQSF 5), Syntax (HEQSF 6+7)

Module 7: Discourse: Language in Discourse and conversation (HEQSF 5); Conversation Analysis & Critical Discourse Analysis (HEQSF 6+7)

Module 8: Comparative Linguistics: Contrastive Linguistics in Languages of the World (Japanese) (HEQSF 5), Introduction to comparative linguistics of specific languages (HEQSF 6+7) i.e. South African Sign Language and Russian.

Module 9: Systemic Functional Linguistics: Language in the Media (HEQSF 5), Systemic Functional Linguistics & APPRAISAL (HEQSF 6+7)

Module 10: Special Topic in Linguistics (HEQSF 5); Special Topics in Linguistics (HEQSF 6+7)

English Language and Linguistics 1 (ENL 1)

This course provides an introduction to eight of the modules listed above at HEQSF Level 5, maintaining a balance between the study of language systems and language in use. Students registered for ENL1 must take eight modules assessed at HEQSF Level 5. One three-hour examination paper is written in June and another in November.

Students in their second and third years of study continue with these broad strands, completing four semester-long modules at HEQSF Levels 6 and 7 from the list above for each credit. Each module has two components: the first half is taught and assessed at HEQSF Level 6; the second half is taught and assessed at HEQSF Level 7. The modules to be offered in any given year are chosen to provide a coherent linguistic programme, maintaining a balance between formal and applied linguistics, and according to staff availability.

English Language and Linguistics 2 (ENL 2)

Students who have passed ENL 1 may proceed to English Language and Linguistics 2. The focus of the course is divided between linguistic systems and

language in use. Students registered for ENL2 take 4 modules at HEQSF Level 6+7. Two examination papers (Papers 1 and 2) are written in June and two examination papers (Papers 3 and 4) are written in November.

Combined English Studies 2

Students who have completed English Language and Linguistics 1 and English 1 may register for Combined English Studies 2. The Linguistics component consists of any two modules offered at HEQSF level 6+7. Students who follow this option may not, in addition, take English Language and Linguistics 2 and/or English 2 as separate subjects.

English Language and Linguistics 3 (ENL 3)

Students who have passed English Language and Linguistics 2 may proceed to English Language and Linguistics 3. The course is divided between the description of linguistic systems and studies on language in use. Students registered for ENL3 take 4 modules at HEQSF Level 6+7. In addition students will produce a research report on a linguistic topic assessed at HEQSF Level 7. Two three-hour examination papers (Papers 1 and 2) are written in June and two more (Papers 3 and 4) in November.

Combined English Studies 3 Students who have passed English Language and Linguistics 2 and English 2 or Combined English Studies 2 may choose to do a major in Combined English Studies 3. The Linguistics component consists of any two modules from the Linguistics programme at HEQSF Level 6+7 and two papers selected from the English 3 programme, and write a research report in Linguistics assessed at HEQSF Level 7. Students who follow this programme may not, in addition, take English Language and Linguistics 3 and/or English 3 as separate subjects.

Professional Communication

The Professional Communication course is a compulsory one-semester course offered in Semester 2 to students in the Commerce Faculty. Students attend three classes every week (two tutorials and one lecture). Additional online resources and compulsory exercises are also offered every week. The course aims to improve the spoken, written and small-group communication skills of students, and focuses on communication within the commercial and professional world. Some

theoretical background is given, but the bulk of the course is experiential and practical, and students are expected to participate in all activities. The course is intended for Commerce students who are in at least their second academic year. Students from other Faculties are only admitted to the course if they are majoring in a subject from the Commerce Faculty. Professional Communication for Accountants Professional Communication for Accountants is a one-term course offered in Term 1 which is required for BCom (Accounting) students to graduate in the Commerce Faculty. The course is partly assessed through an assignment in the Introduction to Taxation course, which is jointly assessed by both departments.

Postgraduate Degrees in Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

There are a number of options for postgraduate studies in Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, including Honours, Master's and PhD degrees. Some of these options can be taken on either a full-time or part-time basis, and at Master's level the options include degrees by thesis only or by coursework and half thesis.

The following coursework modules may be offered at Honours and Master's degree levels:

- Module 1: Introduction to Linguistics at Rhodes
 - Module 2: Phonetics and Phonology
 - Module 3: Language, Mind and Biolinguistics: Introduction to Minimalist Syntax
 - Module 4: Debates in Language Change
 - Module 5: The Acquisition of Grammar
 - Module 6: Ethnographic Investigation of Language Practices
 - Module 7: Language and Gender
 - Module 8: Language Contact: Bilingualism and Related Phenomena
 - Module 9: Topics in Psycholinguistics: Literacy and reading
 - Module 10: The Investigation of Interpersonal Meaning
 - Module 11: Research Project
 - Module 12: Corpus Linguistics
 - Module 13: Sign Language Linguistics
 - Module 14: Psycho-and Neurolinguistics
 - Module 15: External language credit
 - Module 16: Language and Knowledge
- Please consult the Department's Postgraduate

Handbook (available on the Department website) for more information on the structuring and content of these modules.

Modules passed at the Honours degree level may not be repeated at Master's degree level (see below). In terms of assessment, all modules carry equal weight, and are assessed by assignments and examinations. Examinations are written at the end of the semester in which modules are taught. The department may offer take-home, open-book, pre-allocated questions or standard exams.

A. Postgraduate Diploma in English Language Teaching

This course is offered subject to student numbers and is intended for students without a major in English Language and Linguistics. The entry requirement for the course is any Bachelor's degree, subject to the approval of the Head of Department (BA, BCom, BFA, BJourn, BMus, BSocSc or BSc). Students who have credits in Linguistics will be admitted at the discretion of the Head of Department. The Postgraduate Diploma in English Language Teaching is a one-year full-time course, or (in special circumstances) it may be taken part-time over two years. The course aims to provide graduates with the theoretical knowledge and awareness of the skills, methods and techniques necessary to be effective English teachers in English Second Language and multilingual classrooms in South Africa. The curriculum combines components from the undergraduate programme in English Language and Linguistics with postgraduate modules.

B. Honours

The aim of the Honours course is to provide students with a balance between the social and formal aspects of the central disciplines of Linguistics. All modules include a strong commitment to methodological and analytical aspects, drawing on relevant theory and consolidated by a supervised research report. The Honours degree can be completed full-time in one year (minimum) or over two years on a part-time basis.

B.1. Honours in Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

Entry to the Honours programme in Linguistics and Applied Language Studies requires a first degree in English Language and Linguistics or a cognate

discipline. Students must complete four coursework modules (see above). In addition, students will complete a research report on a topic to be mutually negotiated, taking into account the research and/or teaching interests of the department, e.g. further developing English Language and Linguistics 3 research reports, Honours modules or departmental research projects. At the discretion of the Head of Department, students may take a non-mother-tongue language credit from the Rhodes University School of Languages in place of one of the four modules. Additional coursework will be required.

B.2. Honours in English Language Teaching

This course is offered subject to student numbers and current staff expertise and aims to give teachers with professional qualifications, or graduates planning a career in language teaching, a specialised and professional training in English Language Teaching (ELT) as an applied discipline. Entry to the course requires a first degree in Linguistics or a cognate discipline or a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education or its equivalent. Students will be required to take modules with an ELT focus which may not be available in any particular year.

C. Master's Degrees

Entry into the Master's programme in Linguistics and Applied Language Studies is open to students with any of the following qualifications:

- a. an Honours degree in Linguistics or English Language Teaching
- b. an Honours degree in a cognate discipline, subject to the approval of the Head of Department

Two structures are possible in the Master's degree:

C.1 Master of Arts by full thesis

This is a research degree, which is governed by the general regulations for Master's degrees in the University. Full-time candidates can complete the requirements for the award of the degree in a minimum of one year but usually take at least two years to complete the degree. Part-time candidates can complete the requirements in a minimum of two years. Normally only students holding an Honours Degree will be accepted as candidates.

C.2. Master of Arts by coursework and half

thesis

This degree can be completed on a full-time basis over one year, or part-time over two years, and consists of both coursework and a half thesis. Coursework includes four modules. The half thesis is guided research, supervised by a member of the department. Part-time candidates can complete the coursework in the first year of study and the half thesis in the second year. Full-time candidates can complete both coursework and the half thesis in one year.

D. Doctoral Degrees

Students with a Master's degree in linguistics can register for the Doctoral degree, which can only be done by thesis, and only under the supervision of a member of staff. Students who have not studied Linguistics at Rhodes previously will be required to take four modules as part of their preparation for the thesis.