

Academic Year: (2019 / 2020)

Review date: 22-04-2020

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: Philosophy, Language, Literature Theory Department

Coordinating teacher: GARCES GOMEZ, MARIA PILAR

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : Semester :

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

The student needs a perfect domain of Spanish and its orthography to pass this subject.

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this subject is the student's formation in the meaning analysis of the words, the types of semantic relationship established between them and the meaning that is acquired when they are used in a specific context.

The student is expected to be able:

- To understand the phenomena of the meaning in its linguistic ambit.
- To determine the general dimensions of the meaning.
- To distinguish between lexical, grammatical and sentence meaning.
- To distinguish between homonym and synonym phenomena.
- To understand that words are semantically related and in different levels: inclusion, exclusion, identity and opposition relations.
- To assume that the lexical meaning may change and to take into account the importance of metaphor and metonymy in this process.
- To distinguish between semantic and pragmatic processes in the assignation of the meaning to the sentences.
- To explain how the inferential processes, which help to the interpretation, are realized.
- To analyze the argumentative mechanisms which allow getting specific conclusions.
- To determine the principles which take place in the coherence and cohesion of the texts.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

The programme is divided into two main parts. The first one focuses on semantic aspects, preferably, lexical semantics. So, different aspects related to words meaning will be studied and the connections which, from a semantic point of view, exist between them, because the vocabulary of a language is not constituted by a group of isolated units, but by a network which allows us to organize them properly. The second one focuses on the analysis of the contextual factors that take place in the interpretation of the sentences processes and that determine its concrete meaning.

- I. SEMANTICS
 1. General aspects about Semantics
 - 1.1. Semantics.
 - 1.2. Linguistic meaning.
 - 1.3. Meaning analysis.
 2. Lexical Semantics
 - 2.1. Lexical ambiguity
 - 2.2. Homonym
 - 2.3. Polysemy
 - 2.4. Vagueness
 3. Meaning relations
 - 3.1. Identity and similarity relations.
 - 3.2. Inclusion relations.
 - 3.3. Exclusion and opposition relations.
 4. Meaning extensions

- 4.1. Literal and not literal meaning.
- 4.2. Metaphor and metonymy
- 4.3. Ambiguity and presupposition

II. PRAGMATICS

5. Pragmatic perspective
 - 5.1. Linguistic communication.
 - 5.2. Communication components.
 - 5.3. Meaning and interpretation.
6. Speaking acts
 - 6.1. Speaking acts classification.
 - 6.2. Direct and indirect speaking acts.
 - 6.3. Speaking acts in the interpretation.
7. Pragmatic inferences and implications
 - 7.1. The cooperation principle.
 - 7.2. The relevance theory.
 - 7.3. Codification and inference processes.
8. Argumentation in language
 - 8.1. The argumentation in the language.
 - 8.2. Argumentative orientation.
 - 8.3. Argumentative connectors and operators.
 - 8.4. The argumentative strength.
 - 8.5. Argumentative functions.
 - 8.6. Communicative polyphony.
9. Textual coherence and cohesion mechanisms
 - 9.1. Textual coherence and cohesion.
 - 9.1.1. Basic principles for a coherent text.
 - 9.1.2. Basic coherence conditions.
 - 9.2. Cohesion.
 - 9.2.1. Linguistic mechanisms to assure the cohesion.
 - 9.2.2. The discourse markers.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

IN - CLASS ACTIVITIES

The subject is divided into two types of face to face lessons: theoretical and practical. In the theoretical classes, each theme will be explained, taking into account, specially, those aspects considered more relevant or those which, due to its difficulty, are in need of a slower attention. To get a better result of these classes, the student should read before every theme and to reflect about his previous knowledge. At the end of every theme, a part of the class will be dedicated to review the contents and to solve doubts. Because of the characteristics of the subject, a practical focus will be present in almost every session. However, some sessions will be totally practical and they will consist, overall, in texts analysis and exercises. Also, the students will prepare, in a group, an oral presentation of some of the studied themes and they will write a text about those presentations, which will be given to the teacher for its revision.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

As well as face to face sessions, the students should do other activities out of the room in an individual way. These activities will be marked in the chronogram and they will focus on the next aspects:

- Theoretical study. The study of the contents related to the theoretical classes: to study themes; work in the library; recommended reads.
- Practical study: the realization of the proposed exercises, to consult bibliography.
- Practical works: to prepare individual activities in a group and to present them in class and, later, to give them to the teacher.
- To read the proposed reads.
- To prepare the final writing exam.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WORK

- In - Class work: 60 hours.
- Individual work: 90 hours.
- Total work: 150 hours (6 ECTS)

TUTORIALS

There will be two hours of tutorials every week.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The assessment system of the subject will mix the continuous assessment throughout the semester and the final writing test in the official calls, which allow, in an objective way, to determine the grade of achievement of the fixed goals. The final exam will consist on theoretical questions about the studied themes and a practical text to apply the acquired knowledge about the studied phenomena.

The teacher will make a direct observation of the student's daily work and of their participation in the discussions and in the resolution in class of the proposed activities. Furthermore, the practical activities will be an important part of the student's continuous evaluation. About the relative importance of every components of the evaluation, the final mark will be the result of the addition of the partial mark, in the indicated proportion: a) 40% assistance, participation in class and the practical exercises; oral exposition of a theme related to the contents of the subject and its written text; b) 40% final exam, with theoretical and practical questions.

To obtain a positive mark in the subject, it is indispensable a perfect domain of the orthographic rules of Spanish, as much as a right expression in this language.

Final exam percentage scale: 60

Percentage scale of the rest of the evaluation: 40

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|---|----|
| % end-of-term-examination: | 60 |
| % of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...): | 40 |

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- OTAOLA OLANO, Concepción, Lexicología y semántica léxica: teoría y aplicación a la lengua española,, Madrid, Ediciones Académica, 2004.
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ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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