Spanish semantics and pragmatics

Academic Year: (2020 / 2021)   **Review date: 22-06-2020**

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

Coordinating teacher: GARCES GOMEZ, MARIA PILAR

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 3 Semester : 2

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/VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES
The subject is divided into two types of lessons: theoretical and practical, although a practical focus will be present in almost every session. In the theoretical classes, online, each theme will be explained, considering, specially, those relevant aspects or those which, due to its difficulty, are in need of a slower attention. The practical lessons 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.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES
As well as face to face and virtual 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/virtual work: 60 hours. - Individual work: 90 hours. - Total work: 150 hours (6 ECTS)

TUTORIALS There will be two hours of virtual tutorials every week.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

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 contains of the subject and its written text; b) 60% final exam, with theoretical and practical questions.

Final exam percentage scale: 60
Percentage scale of the rest of the evaluation: 40

% end-of-term-examination: 60

% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…): 40

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