

# Modern Linguistics for Sanskritists

MA Sanskrit

**Course Category: Core**

**Schedule of Offering: Semester 4**

**Course Credit Structure: [3]**

**Course Code: SKT7212**

- **Lecture : 3 Hours per week**
- **Tutorial : 0 Hour per week**
- **Practical : 0 Hours per week**

**Contact Hours per week: 3 hours per week**

**Course Coordinator: Dr. Pavankumar Satuluri**

## Introduction:

This course is meant to be a general introduction to the modern discipline of linguistics - the study of languages. Topics such as morphology, phonology, phonetics, syntax and semantics will be covered; and examples from Sanskrit and other Indian languages will be used to make the concepts accessible. The course will touch upon debates and current developments in the field, as well as recent branches of linguistics.

## Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, the student should be familiar with -

- The scope and function of each branch of linguistics
- The terminology, phenomena and laws associated with each sub-discipline
- Techniques of analysis used in morphology, phonology and syntax
- Major debates and schools of thought in each sub-field
- Contemporary streams of applied linguistics and potential areas for future work

## Readings

The course will generally rely on Akmajian et al, for the conceptual content, with other selections for each module.

Akmajian, A., Farmer, A.K., Bickmore, L., Demers, R.A. and Harnish, R.M., 2017. Linguistics: An introduction to language and communication. MIT press.

## **Prerequisites:**

No previous exposure to linguistics is required. Students must be willing to read the prescribed material *before* the class.

## **Module-wise Topics**

### **Module 1: Introduction to Linguistics (5 sessions)**

- What is Language? Different definitions
- Origin of Linguistics as a discipline
- Branches and specialisations in linguistic sciences
- Difference between Modern and Historical Linguistics
- Difference in linguistic approaches for classical and modern languages
- Linguistics as a branch of Semiotics

#### Readings

**Deutscher, G., 2010.** *Through the language glass: Why the world looks different in other languages.* Metropolitan Books.

**Szemerényi, Oswald., 1999.** *Introduction to Indo-European Linguistics.* Oxford University Press.

**Murti, M.S., 1984.** *An Introduction to Sanskrit Linguistics: Comparative and Historical.* DK Publications.

**Anttila, R., 1972.** *An introduction to historical and comparative linguistics.* New York: Macmillan.

### **Module 2: Typology of Languages (5 sessions)**

- Morphological and Genealogical classification
- Indo-European family of Languages
- Characteristics of IE, MIE and Dravidian Languages
- Current debates in Historical and Comparative Linguistics

### Readings

**Meier-Brügger, M., 2013.** *Indo-European Linguistics*. Walter de Gruyter.

**Clackson, J., 2007.** *Indo-European linguistics: an introduction*. Cambridge University Press.

**Mallory, J.P. and Adams, D.Q., 2006.** *The Oxford Introduction to Proto-Indo-European and the Proto-Indo-European World*. Oxford University Press.

### **Module 3: Phonology and Phonetics (7 sessions)**

- Phone, Phoneme and allophone. Reading the IPA chart.
- Organs of speech and classification of speech sounds
- Places of articulation, *sthana* and *prayatna*
- Classification of Phonetic change.
- Causes of phonetic change and phonetic laws.

### Readings

**Deshpande, M.M., 1995.** Ancient Indian phonetics. In *Concise History of the Language Sciences* (pp. 72-77).

**Zwicky, A.M., 1965.** *Topics in Sanskrit phonology* (Doctoral dissertation, MIT).

**Allen, W.S., 1953.** *Phonetics in ancient India* (Vol. 1). Oxford University Press.

### **Module 4: Morphology (8 sessions)**

- Morph, Allomorph and Morpheme
- Types of morphemes: free and bound morphemes, basic introduction of root, affix, stem, prefix, infix and suffix
- Types of Morphology: Inflectional and Derivational, concept of TAM (Tense, Aspect, Mood)
- Morphological Models: Morpheme based, lexeme based, word based
- Morphology of sup, tin, taddhita and krt formations in Sanskrit

### Readings

**Haspelmath, M. and Sims, A., 2013.** *Understanding morphology.* Routledge.

**Aronoff, M. and Fudeman, K., 2011.** *What is morphology?* John Wiley & Sons.

**Aiyar, T.R., 1987.** *A Students' Hand-book of Comparative Philology (of Indo-European Languages), with Special Reference to Sanskrit.* RS Vadhyar. - Section IV.

## **Module 5: Syntax (8 sessions)**

- Introduction to Syntax: Word, phrase, clause and sentence
- Phrase structure syntax
- Dependency structure
- Difference between Sanskrit and English syntax

### Readings

**Speyer, J.S., 1886 (1998).** *Sanskrit syntax.* EJ Brill. Reprint: Motilal Banarsidass.

**Radford, A., 1997.** *Syntax: A minimalist introduction.* Cambridge University Press.

## **Module 6: Semantics, Pragmatics & Lexicography (6 sessions)**

- What is a Seme?
- Meaning and Semantic change
- Word sense disambiguation - Modern and traditional approaches
- Semantic relations
- Pragmatics - meaning in context
- Lexical semantics and diachronic dictionaries
- Linguistic relativism and the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

### Readings

**Leech, G.N., 2016.** *Principles of pragmatics*. Routledge.

**Cruse, A., 2011.** Meaning in language: An introduction to semantics and pragmatics.

**Riemer, N., 2010.** *Introducing semantics*. Cambridge University Press.

**Ghatage, A.M., 2000.** Lexicography And Lexicology. *Annals of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute*, 81(1/4), pp.227-236.

**Patkar, M.M., 1980.** *History of Sanskrit lexicography*. Munshiram Manoharlal.

## **Module 7: Recent developments in the study of Indian Languages (6 sessions)**

- Text corpora and corpus linguistics
- Digital parsing tools
- Computational Linguistics
- Cognitive Linguistics and Metaphor Studies

### Readings

**Kulkarni, Amba., 2016.** Lexical and corpus resources-Sanskrit. in Hock, H.H and Elina Bashir (ed.)

**Covill, L., 2009.** A metaphorical study of Saundarananda. Motilal Banarsidass.

**Jurewicz, J., 2008.** 'Anger and Cognition. Conceptual Metaphor in the Rgveda'. *Rocznik Orientalistyczny (Annual of Oriental Studies)*, 61(1), pp.7-19.

**McEnery, A.M. and Wilson, A., 2001.** *Corpus linguistics: an introduction*. Edinburgh University Press.

## **Pedagogy**

The course will be lectured-based, but will also rely on student presentations and projects.

## **Evaluation**

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|---------------------|-----------|
| ● Assignments (3)   | 15 Points |
| ● Tests/Quizzes     | 10 Points |
| ● Mid-Semester Exam | 25 Points |
| ● End-Semester Exam | 50 Points |

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Total

100 Points