澳門理工大學
Universidade Politécnica de Macau
Macao Polytechnic University

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLIED LANGUAGE SCIENCES
LEARNING MODULE OUTLINE

Academic Year	2025/2026	Semester	1
Module Code	PALS8122-111		
Learning Module	Frontiers in Language Studies		
Pre-requisite(s)	Nil		
Medium of Instruction	English		
Credits	3	Contact Hours	45 hrs
Instructor	Mark Feng Teng	Email	markteng@mpu.edu.mo
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MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module delves into cutting-edge research and emerging trends in language studies, with a focus on interdisciplinary connections between linguistics, education, and psychological sciences. Topics include neurolinguistics, language acquisition, multilingualism, sociolinguistics, and the role of language in cognition and identity. Students will critically engage with current debates and explore how advances in sciences are reshaping our understanding of language and its role in society. The module encourages students to reflect on the implications of these developments for teaching, learning, and research in language studies.

MODULE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILOS)

On completion of this learning module, students will be able to:

M1.	Critically evaluate contemporary research and emerging trends in language studies, with particular attention to interdisciplinary perspectives from linguistics, education, and psychological sciences.
M2.	Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts and theoretical frameworks related to neurolinguistics, language acquisition, multilingualism, sociolinguistics, and the cognitive and social functions of language.
M3.	Analyze and synthesize current debates and empirical findings concerning the relationship between language, cognition, and identity.
M4.	Assess the implications of recent scientific advances for language teaching, learning, and research, and propose informed responses to these developments.
M5.	Reflect on and articulate the role of language in shaping individual and societal identities, and consider the ethical, cultural, and educational consequences of new research in the field.
M6.	Design and conduct a small-scale research project or critical review that integrates interdisciplinary approaches to a contemporary issue in language studies.

These ILOs aims to enable students to attain the following Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs):

PILOs	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
P1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of core concepts, theories, and frameworks in applied language sciences.	✓					
P2. Critically analyze, synthesize, and evaluate current research literature and theoretical developments in applied language sciences.		✓		✓		✓
P3. Design, implement, and manage original empirical research projects using appropriate methodologies in applied language sciences.			✓	✓	✓	✓
P4. Apply rigorous ethical standards and professional integrity in research and professional practice.		✓			✓	
P5. Analyse, interpret, and communicate complex research findings through scholarly writing, presentations, and other academic formats.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P6. Reflect critically on personal research practices and demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional and academic development.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P7. Integrate interdisciplinary perspectives from linguistics, education, psychology, and related fields to address complex issues in language sciences.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P8. Demonstrate advanced problem-solving skills by proposing innovative solutions to theoretical and practical challenges. in applied language sciences.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P9. Engage constructively with academic, professional, and. community stakeholders to disseminate research findings and contribute to knowledge transfer.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P 10. Demonstrate leadership and autonomy in planning, conducting, and evaluating independent research that advances the field of applied language sciences.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

MODULE SCHEDULE, COVERAGE AND STUDY LOAD

Week	Content Coverage	Contact Hours
1	Basic introduction to applied linguistics, what is applied linguistics? Journal publications and index	3
2	Sociocultural perspective in SLA	3
3	Cognitive perspective in SLA	3
4	Affective perspective in SLA	3
5	Reading and Writing	3
6	Vocabulary	3
7	Listening & speaking	3
8	Workshop & presentation	3

9	Language and identity	3
10	Language, policy and planning	3
11	Classroom research	3
12	Individual differences in SLA I	3
13	Individual differences in SLA II	3
14	The psychology of second language acquisition	3
15	Prospects and perspectives in applied linguistics, workshop & presentation	3

TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In this learning module, students will work towards attaining the ILOs through the following teaching and learning activities:

Teaching and Learning Activities	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
T1. Lectures and group discussions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2. In-class and out-of-class practice and workshops	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
T3. Knowledge- and practice- based assignments and tests	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

ATTENDANCE

Attendance requirements are governed by the Academic Regulations Governing Doctoral Degree Programmes of the Macao Polytechnic University. Students who do not meet the attendance requirements for the learning module shall be awarded an 'F' grade.

ASSESSMENT

In this learning module, students are required to complete the following assessment activities:

Assessment Activities	Weighting (%)	ILOs to be Assessed
A1. Class participation and performance	10%	M1-M6
A2. Workshop & Presentation	30%	M1-M6
A3. Critical literature review	30%	M1-M6
A4. Reflective essay	30%	M1-M6

The assessment will be conducted following the University's Assessment Strategy (see www.mpu.edu.mo/teaching_learning/en/assessment_strategy.php). Passing this learning module indicates that students will have attained the ILOs of this learning module and thus acquired its credits.

MARKING SCHEME

Excellent: Strong evidence of original thinking; good organisation, capacity to analyse and systemise; superior grasps of subject matter; strong evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Very Good: Evidence of grasps of subject; strong evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; good understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Good: Evidence of grasp of subject; some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Satisfactory: Profiting from the study experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Pass: Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the learning module.

Fail: Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weak in critical and analytical skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

REQUIRED READINGS

Dornyei, Z. (2013). *The psychology of second language acquisition*. Oxford University Press.

Plonsky, L. (Ed.) (2020). *Professional development in applied linguistics: A guide to success for graduate students and early career faculty*. John Benjamins.

REFERENCES

Yule, G. (2022). *The study of language*. Cambridge university press.

Dornyei, Z. (2013). *The psychology of second language acquisition*. Oxford University Press.

Harley, T. A. (2013). *The psychology of language: From data to theory*. Psychology press.

Teng, M. F. (2025). *Metacognition in language teaching.* Cambridge University Press.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

At the end of every semester, students are invited to provide feedback on the learning module and the teaching arrangement through questionnaires. Your feedback is valuable for instructors to enhance the module and its delivery for future students. The instructor and programme coordinators will consider all feedback and respond with actions formally in the annual programme review.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Macao Polytechnic University requires students to have full commitment to academic integrity when engaging in research and academic activities. Violations of academic integrity, which include but are not limited to plagiarism, collusion, fabrication or falsification, repeated use of assignments and cheating in examinations, are considered as serious academic offenses and may lead to disciplinary actions. Students

should read the relevant regulations and guidelines in the Student Handbook which is distributed upon the admission into the University, a copy of which can also be found at www.mpu.edu.mo/student_handbook/.