University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Pragmatics of Communication, PG_00200546						
Field of study	German Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026		Academic year of realisation of subject	2028/2029			
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Humanistic-social subject group			
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery	at the university			
Year of study	3		Language of instruction	Polish			
Semester of study	6		ECTS credits	2.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	credit			
Conducting unit	Division of German Language and Translation Studies -> Institute of German Philology -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Izabela Olszewska				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM	
	Number of study hours	30		2.0	18.0	50	
Subject objectives	Students' acquisition of issues of linguistic pragmatics and speech act theory						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[NIEML3_U02] Is able to select sources correctly and apply research methods appropriate to the research skills of a historian and/or literary scholar	K_U02 - Can search, analyse, evaluate, select and integrate information using various sources and methods in the field of German studies (classifies verbal actions occurring in selected types of texts, chooses the way of expressing illocution by alternative linguistic means; draws conclusions on the used verbal actions on the basis of the sender's message; analyses selected types of texts and statements with respect to the used forms of illocution; analyses the illocutionary value of verbs in various linguistic situations)	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[NIEML3_K01] Critically evaluates his/her knowledge, demonstrates a willingness to continually expand his/her knowledge and to seek expert advice if he/she has difficulty solving a problem on his/ her own	K_K01 - Knows the extent of his/ her knowledge and skills, understands the need for continuous training and professional development (is cautious in evaluating the type of speech act in a given speech)	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[NIEML3_U05] Has the ability to argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions	K_U05 - Has the ability to argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions (evaluates statements in terms of speech acts; recognises the reasons for the use of specific verbal actions by participants in linguistic communication)	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[NIEML3_W06] Has a structured detailed knowledge of German language communication and culture	K_W06 - Has a structured general knowledge, including terminology, theories and methodology, of the historical, philological and related sciences relevant to the field of German studies (explains/explains the role of situational context in determining the type of speech acts; distinguishes between direct and indirect speech acts)	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

Pragmatics as a scientific discipline, history of pragmalinguistic thought, place of other linguistic disciplines; basic components of a communicative situation; model of a communicative act and functions of language as seen by various linguists, e.g. Bühler, Jakobson; Systemic meaning vs. pragmatic meaning of an utterance; speech act theory - its creators and main assumptions (Ch.Peirce, J. Searle); three aspects of speech acts: locution, illocution, perlocution. Conditions for a successful speech act; taxonomy of speech acts by K. Wagner and G. Harras; comments on terminological confusion in the classification of speech acts; linguistic exponents of illocution, performative verbs. Direct and indirect speech acts; deictic indicatives of verbal utterances; the role of context in the determination of the type of illocution; Grice's conversational rules and how to violate them. Conversational implicatures; analysis of exemplary speech acts using the terminology learnt; at the student's choice: analysis of selected text types in terms of speech act type; critical summary of pragmalinguistic theories.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Good knowledge of the German language

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Attendance	51.0%	49.0%
Making a credit project	51.0%	51.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

Austin, J.L.. How to do Things with Words. Oxford, 1962. Levinson, S. C, Pragmatics. Cambridge, 1985. Liedtke, F., Modern Pragmatics. Tübingen, 2016. Liedtke, F., Tuchen, A. (ed.): Handbuch Pragmatik. Stuttgart, 2018. Finkbeiner, R., Introduction to Pragmatics. Darmstadt, 2015. Ernst, P., Pragmalinguistik. Berlin, New York, 2022.

Literature studied independently by the student:

Hollz, W. Introduction to Pragmalinguistics. Kassel, 2001. Harras, Gisela et al, Handbuch deutscher Kommunikationsverben: Wörterbuch. Berlin, New York, 2004. Pohl, I., Semantics and Pragmatics - Interfaces. Frankfurt a.M, 2008. Polenz, Peter von, Deutsche Satzsemantik. Berlin New York, 1988. Meibauer, J., Pragmatics. An introduction. Tübingen, 2001. Wagner, Klaus Pragmatik der deutschen Sprache. Frankfurt a.M., 2001.

	Supplementary literature	Radziszewska A., Pragmalingwistyczne wyznaczniki skuteczności komunikacyjnej teksty reklamowych. Warsaw, 2015. Skudrzykowa A., Urban K., (ed.): A small dictionary of terms from the field of sociolinguistics and linguistic pragmatics. Kraków, Warsaw, 2000. Sikora, J., Sprechhandlungen im publizistischen Material der Danziger Neuesten Nachrichten. Frankfurt a.M, 2013.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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