

The National University of “Ostroh Academy”

KRAICHYNSKA G. V.

Methodical recommendations
for I year students
of the College of Romance
and Germanic Languages

Introduction to Linguistic Studies

OSTROH, 2011

Kraichynska G. V. Methodical recommendations «Introduction to linguistic studies» for I year students of the College of Romance and Germanic Languages. – Ostroh, 2011. – 20 p.

Methodical recommendations «Introduction to linguistic studies» contains preface, plan of the themes, questions for the control, a short dictionary of linguistic terms, a list of the main and the recommended literature. Methodical recommendations is addressed to the students-philologists of bachelor and master studies and for the teachers of foreign languages.

Introduction

The course “Introduction to Linguistic Studies” precedes other linguistic disciplines in the system of professional training of future philologists. This course includes intelligible explanation of the most important information considering the present-day state of linguistics. The course highlights language essence, its nature, rules of language functioning and language development. “Introduction to linguistic studies” is the subject which helps to form a philologist who as a specialist can then master the corresponding system of notions and terms, and extend the linguistic world-view.

The course program is composed of two parts: theoretical and thematic. The theoretical part covers general linguistic questions that facilitates a profound study of the main topics along with familiarization of the urgent problems of modern linguistics.

The thematic part includes detailed questions that are studied during the lectures and practical classes. The purpose of the course is to provide students with information about language as a notion, as well as its system and structure, and help future philologists gain proficiency in the conceptual material that is needed for their work. First-year students are required to know the theoretical principles of linguistics, and to be able to explain the determinant phenomena of phonetics, lexicology, and grammar, and to compare the facts of different languages.

The list of recommended literature, as well as the Internet sources can be used as preparation for the practical classes of the course “Preface to linguistics”.

The purpose and the tasks of the course, and its place in the studying process

The course “Introduction to linguistics” is intended for first year students of the College of Romance and Germanic languages. The course “Introduction to linguistics” is recommended by the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine (the letter of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine № 14/18.2 – 481 starting from March 2, 2005. The program proposed is the standard program preparing a philologist with the bachelor’s and master’s degree.

The purpose of the course is to learn the basic features, properties, and peculiarities of the language structure, regularities of language, display and

realization of these regularities in individual languages. Theoretical linguistics looks into the essence and the nature of a language, its organization, origin, functioning and development. Applied linguistics embraces the question of practical usage of the language. Problematic questions arise in applied linguistics such as writing emergence and perfection, its specifics, problems of language systems modeling and computer translation. The program within the course "Introduction to linguistics" is realized by reaching practical, educational, informative, and developing social aims.

The practical aim lies in the formation of general and professionally oriented communicative language competences for effective communication in academic and professional surroundings. The educational aim is to develop students' general competences (declarative knowledge, skills and habits, development of the ability to study independently), which will allow students to continue studying in academic and professional surroundings after receiving the certificate of higher education. Informative aim is interpreted as a necessity to attract students to take part in such kinds of activity which will stir up and develop full range of their informative abilities. Developing aim is to help students formulate their general competences in order to develop their personal motivation, strengthen student's confidence in the usage of linguistic terminology and their positive attitude towards language studying. Social aim is to facilitate critical self-awareness, the ability to communicate and make a significant contribution to the international language environment. Social aim lies in the necessity to reach a broad understanding of the urgent international social and cultural problems in order to act adequately in different professional and academic situations.

By the end of the course, students should master linguistic terminology, which is used by native speakers of the English language.

The course "Introduction to linguistics" is closely connected to the main courses, for instance, "English language", "Lexicology", "Applied linguistics", "Modern Ukrainian language". The course "Introduction to linguistic studies" is bound up with history, archeology, sociology, social and linguistic studies, psychology, ethnolinguistics, philosophy, study of literature, physiology, anatomy, medicine, physics, cybernetics, geography, astronomy, etc.

A note from the author

The course “Introduction to linguistics Studies” is a discipline within linguistics which is studied by the students of language faculties. The aim of the course is to survey the main theories of modern linguistics, to familiarize students with the basic problems, goals, methodology and methods of scientific investigation, to explain clearly the historical development of linguistic thought (from ancient times till the beginning of 21st century), of the existing linguistic trends and schools of the 20th century; to reveal concepts of the eminent linguists, to estimate the role of the previous stages of linguistic development in the establishment of domestic and foreign linguistics.

The main aim of the course is systematization, generalization, and extension of the knowledge gained in the course of studying linguistic and non-linguistic disciplines, namely philosophy, logics, psychology, theory of literature and other disciplines mandated by the curriculum. As a result, at the end of the course, students should know the main language studies; sign nature of the language; functions, principles of the inner system organization and methods of functioning; relation of language thought and reality; universals typical to all or to majority of world languages. At the same time, students should know how to apply modern methods of investigation, be able to classify, describe, compare and summarize language phenomena, and estimate critically linguistic concepts and special science literature.

The important role is paid to the students’ individual work and consultation with the course instructor. During the course, special attention is paid to the limited range of problems that are considered to be the most urgent in modern linguistics and are most difficult for the individual to master.