Course Description

LIN2011 | Introduction to Linguistics | 3.00 credits
The course provides an exploration of basic linguistic concepts including phonology, morphology, syntax, pragmatics and semantics, how a language is organized and functions, and will establish a connection between Linguistics and Translation Theory. The course will also introduce students to the study of how cultural and social factors affect human communication.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts related to the structure and functioning of a language by:

1. Describing the difference between language and discourse
2. Explaining the significant sub-fields of linguistics, such as phonology, morphology, semantics, pragmatics, and syntax
3. Describing the characteristics of the linguistic sign

Competency 2: The student will demonstrate knowledge of semantics by:

1. Explaining the difference between meaning and sense, denotation vs. connotation, polysemy, and homonyms
2. Describing a semantic field through the use of componential analysis
3. Explaining the difference between synonyms and the concept of collocation

Competency 3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of language varieties by:

1. Managing and explaining the difference between standard languages, regional dialects, and accents and how the perception of those variations influences interaction
2. Managing and explaining the effects that race, gender, and social class have on communication

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate knowledge of how the vocabulary of a language is organized by:

1. Identifying and explaining the difference between general vocabulary and terminology
2. Demonstrating how to classify dictionaries and terminology databases
3. Applying basic principles of lexicography to the compilation of specialized glossaries

Competency 5: The student will apply their knowledge of language theory to the understanding of the Translation and Interpretation process by:

1. Analyzing language and discourse in their meaningful components
2. Applying their "meaning" knowledge to language processing and re-expression
3. Identifying social and cultural factors that might influence the communication process
4. Analyzing and describing the semantic, syntagmatic, and paradigmatic relationships within a language's lexicon (vocabulary)

Learning Outcomes:

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills