SUBJECT SYLLABUS

1. Course Identity
   a. Course Name : Language in Use
   b. Course Code : IG 721
   c. Credit hours : 3 credits
   d. Semester : 2
   e. Course Category : MKKU
   f. Study Program/Program : English Education Program
   g. Course status : Compulsory
   h. Pre-requisite : None
   i. Lecturer : Prof. E. Aminudin Aziz, M.A., Ph.D

2. Course Objective
   Upon the completion of the subject, the students are expected to a) have a solid understanding of the basic principles of language use, b) be able to analyse the phenomena of language use and potential problems in understanding and/or misunderstanding and then provide the possible solutions to the problems.

3. Course Description
   This subject will critically discuss the issues related to the aspects of language use as they are found in the expressions of the speakers in their communication. The topics to be discussed include the views of language use as joint activities, basic concepts in pragmatics, theories of speech acts, conversational implicature, the notion of (in)directness in language use, theories of politeness, and the interface between Pragmatics and Semantics, and Pragmatics and Syntax.

4. Learning Approaches
   The class will be divided into groups, in which each group will be assigned a chapter from the prescribed textbooks to be presented to and discussed with the class. Students’ participation in the class discussions will be assessed. Therefore, undertaking reading in preparation for each class becomes essential. They may be asked to report on this reading. They should do so concisely and note whether the author has presented the issue successfully especially in carrying the arguments to the conclusion?

5. Assessment
   Participation in Class Discussions 15%
   One library search report (annotation) or Journal Article Review 20%
   One test 25%
   One mini project report of 2500-3000 words 40%

To be able to sit in the test and to allow for their final result to be published, the students are required to meet a minimum of 80% of attendance of the total lectures (This is normative!!! – although exceptional circumstances will still be considered!). Please Note: Late arrivals (i.e. 10 minutes after a lecture commences) will not be taken. Students are reminded to deactivate and not to “play” their mobile phones during the sessions, except in
exceptional situations they have to accept a call (emergency only!!!). When caught doing so, they will be asked to leave the class.

**Notes on Library Exercise**

Students are required to collect and annotate 5 titles of either academic refereed journal articles or books which are relevant to the topic they choose (choose ONE topic ONLY of your interest). Annotation, to be made only in three to four sentences (no longer than this PLEASE), should also include information on the following: author(s), date, title, page(s) (when relevant), publisher, and the place where people can obtain the annotated bibliographies. The articles and/or books to be annotated are limited to those published in the last five (5) years only. Non-refereed journal articles from the internet are not accepted. Once annotation has been made, students are required to provide other FIVE titles of published articles of the similar topic as the one annotated (Remember: TITLES of articles and TITLES of Journal ONLY!)

E.g. of annotation:

**Aziz, E.A. 2006.** "Mutual Consideration as a Principle for Doing Politeness". Taking data from an in-depth study on the realization of politeness strategies in the Indonesian context, this article discusses a new approach to principle of doing politeness, called Principle of Mutual Consideration (PMC). Aziz puts forward four values underlying the strategies to be considered when a person is to communicate politely. Unlike other linguistic politeness principles discussed to date, PMC is calculated in a cause-and-effect value, believing that all utterances produced by speakers give effects to their hearers. This article was published in *Journal of Asian Studies, 2006, 2, 15,* pp. 186-231.

**Notes on Journal Article Review**

Students will have to pick up an article from a reputable journal for review. They should do so concisely and note the following information:

- What does the author set out to do?
- What methodology is used?
- What conclusions are reached?
- Is the author successful in carrying the arguments to its conclusion?
- If not, why?
- What is the importance of the study in the total context of the field?

**Notes on Mini Project Assignment**

Students are required to conduct a survey on language use phenomena of their own interest and reported in a journal article format. This report will have to contain an abstract, a (short) introduction to the study, a concise review of related literature, methods of investigation, findings, data analysis, and discussion, and logical conclusions. The approximate number of words for this report will be around 2500 – 3000 words.
### Weekly Syllabus

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<th>Weeks/Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Materials</th>
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| **Week #1** | Welcoming Remarks  
Course outline and its requirements  
Some basic concepts of Pragmatics as the study of language use  
Upon the introduction to the course outline and requirements, students will be introduced to the basic concepts in Pragmatics study, which will in turn be learned during the course. These include the genesis of Pragmatics vis-a-vis Syntax and Semantics, the various definitions of Pragmatics, the concepts of Speaker, Hearer, Setting and Utterance in the study of Pragmatics, and the approaches to be taken in the course. | Levinson 1983: 5-35  
Mey 2001: 1-18  
Thomas 1995: 1-27 |
| **Week #2** | Using and understanding language  
Students will be presented with the concepts of language use, settings of language use, concepts regarding common ground and language use as a joint action. | Grundy 2008: 1-21  
Clark 1996: 1-29 |
| **Week #3** | Class Presentation and Discussion on the topic  
*Defining Pragmatics: What is it and why?*  
Students will be required to discuss and then formulate the potential working definitions of Pragmatics based on the observation they might have from their surrounding in relation to the various types of language use. | Huang 2007: 1-21  
Levinson 1983: 5-35  
Mey 2001: 1-18  
Thomas 1995: 1-27 |
| **Week #4** | Deixis  
Some concepts (philosophy- and linguistics-based) about deixis will be discussed critically.  
Class Presentation and Discussion on the topic  
*Presupposition and entailment*  
Discussions will be oriented to finding the common understandings of the concepts of presupposition and entailment as discussed in Semantics and Pragmatics. | Yule 1996: 10-17; and 26-35  
Grundy 2008: 22-47; and 48-70  
Huang 2007: 132-177; and 64-92  
Levinson 1983: 54-96; and 167-225  
Mey 2001: 52-66 |
| **Week #5** | Class Presentation and Discussion on the topic  
*Speech Acts*  
Students will be required to investigate then to discuss the history of speech act theories and the classification of speech acts | Yule 1996: 36-47  
Grundy 2008: 71-91  
Huang 2007: 93-108  
Levinson 1983: 97-166  
Mey 2001: 45-51 |
| Week #6          | Indirect Speech Acts  | Grundy 2008: 71-91  
Huang 2007: 109-131  
Levinson 1983: 97-166  
Mey 2001: 45-51  
Thomas 1995: 119-147  
Yule 1996: 36-47 |
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<td>More accounts on Speech Act Theories will be given by the lecturer, including the philosophy behind the classifications of Speech Acts, Felicity Conditions, and Indirect Speech Acts.</td>
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| Week #7         | Class Presentation and Discussion on the topic Conversational Implicature  | Yule 1996: 48-59  
Grundy 2008: 92-132  
Huang 2007: 21-63  
Levinson 1983: 226-283  
Mey 2001: 92-133 |
|                 | Students will be required to preliminarily discuss some background concepts regarding Conversational Implicature, which include the difference from Conventional Implicature, types of Implicatures, and consequences of making implicatures in communication. |                      |
|                 | More on Conversational Implicature and Explicature  |                       |
|                 | Further critical discussions on the concepts of implicature will be presented by the lecturer, from which the concepts of explicatures will be elaborated. |                      |
| Week #8         | Pragmatics and Cognition  | Grundy 2008: 133-154  
Thomas 1995: 87-118  
Blakemore 1992: 24-38 |
|                 | Students will be brought to the discussions on the interface between pragmatics and cognition as discussed in Relevance Theory from Sperber and Wilson. |                      |
| Week #9         | Class Presentation and Discussion on the topics:  | Grundy 2008: 155-177  
Grundy 2008: 178 - 185 |
|                 | Metapragmatic awareness  |                      |
|                 | Pragmatic Inference and Language Evolution  |                       |
|                 | Students are invited to look at the phenomena found in their surroundings in regard to language users’ awareness in understanding language; how meanings are inferred pragmatically, and how language evolves. |                      |
| Week #10        | Class Presentation and Discussion on the topic Politeness in Language  | Brown & Levinson 1987:  
Grundy 2008: 186-210  
Aziz 2000: 293-305  
Aziz 2006  
Aziz 2008 |
|                 | Students are required to explore the background concepts and use of linguistic politeness as they can find in their day-to-day communication encounters. |                      |
### Week #11
- **Theories of Linguistic Politeness (Revisited)**

Some theories of linguistic politeness will be reviewed, beginning from the conceptions developed by K’hung Fu Tzu, Goffman, Brown & Levinson, Grice, Leech, and others. A new view of more universal theory of linguistic politeness from Aziz (2000; 2008) will be presented.

Aziz 2000: 293-305
Aziz 2006
Aziz 2008

### Week #12
- **Class presentation and Discussion on the topic**
  - *Empirical Pragmatics, interactive pragmatics, and talk-in-interaction*

Students will be required to elaborate various issues in language use phenomena to come to the understanding of “language-in-action”.

Grundy 2008: 211-227

### Week #13
- **Intercultural Pragmatics**

Successful communication is partly determined by the understanding owned by the parties involved in the communication about each other’s culture. This issue will become the focus to be discussed in this session.

Grundy 2008: 228-248

### Week #14
- **Class Presentation and Discussion on the topic**
  - *The (Re)-Construction of Meaning*

A discussion on how meaning as studied in Pragmatics can be developed for further construction will be the focus of this week’s lecture. This will represent the conclusion of the overall discussions of the study of Pragmatics study, where students will also be required to reflect on what they have learned during the course of discussions.

Thomas 1995: 183-210

### Week #15
- **Test – Test – Test**

A comprehensive test will be given to assess students’ understanding on what they have learned in the course of Pragmatics.

### 7. References

**Prescribed Textbooks**


**Recommended textbooks**