

МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ

ОДЕСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ

імені І. І. МЕЧНИКОВА

ФАКУЛЬТЕТ РОМАНО-ГЕРМАНСЬКОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ

КАФЕДРА ГРАМАТИКИ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ МОВИ



## GERMANISTICS: TOPICAL PROBLEMS

### МЕТОДИЧНІ РЕКОМЕНДАЦІЇ

до практичних занять та самостійної роботи  
з навчальної дисципліни “Актуальні проблеми  
германістики” для здобувачів другого (магістерського)  
рівня вищої освіти спеціальності 035 «Філологія»  
спеціалізації 035.041 Германські мови та літератури  
(переклад включно), перша – англійська

ОДЕСА

2023

**УДК 811.111'1(072)**  
**G39**

**Укладачі:**

**І. Б. Морозова**, доктор філологічних наук, професор, професор кафедри граматики англійської мови

**О. О. Пожарицька**, кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, доцент кафедри граматики англійської мови

**Рецензенти:**

**Н. О. Кравченко**, доктор філологічних наук, професор, декан факультету романо-германської філології Одеського національного університету імені І. І. Мечникова

**Н. В. Степанюк**, кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, доцент кафедри лексикології та стилістики англійської мови Одеського національного університету імені І. І. Мечникова

*Рекомендовано до друку вченою радою  
факультету романо-германської філології ОНУ імені І. І. Мечникова  
Протокол № 1 від 30 серпня 2023 року*

**G39** **Germanistics: Topical Problems:** методичні рекомендації до практичних занять та самостійної роботи з навчальної дисципліни «Актуальні проблеми германістики» для здобувачів другого (магістерського) рівня вищої освіти спеціальності 035 «Філологія», спеціалізації 035.041 Германські мови та літератури (переклад включно), перша – англійська / уклад.: І. Б. Морозова, О. О. Пожарицька. – Одеса : Освіта України, 2023. – 38 с.

Розробка ставить собі завданням сформулювати знання здобувачів освіти щодо проблематики сучасних наріжних наукових розробок у галузі германського мовознавства та ознайомленні їх з сучасним станом дослідження теоретичних проблем фонетики, граматики, лексикології, стилістики у вітчизняній і зарубіжній лінгвістичній науці та базовими напрямками та підходами до розв'язання філологічних проблем, а також у виокремленні найактуальніших наукових шкіл, що ведуть розробки у цих областях. У розробці представлена базова інформація про новітні досягнення сучасних студій з германістики, лінгвістичні школи та їх підходи до розуміння теперішнього стану і розвитку германських мов. Подані посилання на додаткові матеріали у вигляді QR-кодів та тези для проведення дискусій.

УДК 811.111'373.2.001.33:73/79

© Морозова І.Б., Пожарицька О.О., укладання, 2023

© Одеський національний університет імені І. І. Мечникова, 2023

## ЗМІСТ

<i>ПЕРЕДМОВА .....</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>GERMANISTICS AS PART OF LINGUISTICS.....</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF GERMANISTICS .....</i>	<b>7</b>
<i>JACOB GRIMM, THE GREAT CONSONANT SHIFT, AND HIS INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GERMANISTICS.....</i>	<b>11</b>
<i>WHO IS THE REAL FATHER OF LINGUISTICS? .....</i>	<b>13</b>
What is linguistics   now? .....	<b>13</b>
What is Chomsky's theory? .....	<b>14</b>
Why does the scientific study of linguistics matter? .....	<b>14</b>
Noam Chomsky & His Input into Linguistics: An Outline .....	<b>15</b>
<i>MODERN LINGUISTICS: PURPOSES, BRANCHES, FEATURES.....</i>	<b>18</b>
<i>KEY ACADEMIC CHALLENGES OF GERMANIC, ENGLISH AND GENERAL LINGUISTICS TODAY .....</i>	<b>21</b>
<i>WATCH THEM SPEAKING! .....</i>	<b>25</b>
<i>TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION &amp; DEBATE.....</i>	<b>28</b>
<i>LIST OF USED AND RECOMMENDED LITERATURE .....</i>	<b>36</b>

## ПЕРЕДМОВА

Шановні магістри факультету романо-германської філології,

Ми раді вас вітати на курсі «Актуальні проблеми германістики», який розроблений з метою пропонувати вам глибокий і системний огляд ключових аспектів і питань, що стосуються германських мов та лінгвістики. Ця дисципліна створена з метою розширення вашого розуміння германських студій у сучасному світовому контексті, а також поглиблення вашого аналітичного мислення та наукового підходу до вивчення галузі філології.

Метою даних методичних рекомендацій є формування та розвиток інтегральної, загальних та спеціальних компетентностей, які забезпечують готовність випускників факультету романо-германської філології до ефективного спілкування іноземною мовою. Дана розробка окреслює базові моменти однієї з основних дисциплін освітньо-професійної програми підготовки магістрів спеціальності 035 «Філологія», спеціалізації 035.041 Германські мови та літератури (переклад включно), перша англійська - Актуальних проблем германістики.

У цьому курсі ми спільно вирушимо у подорож до світу германських студій, розглянемо актуальні питання та виклики, що стоять перед германістикою сьогодні. Ви будете вивчати сучасні філологічні течії, аналізувати наукові контексти та вивчати мовні явища, які впливають на германські мови.

Представлена розробка ставить собі завданням сформувати знання здобувачів освіти щодо проблематики сучасних наріжних наукових розробок у галузі германського мовознавства та ознайомленні їх з сучасним станом дослідження теоретичних проблем фонетики, граматики, лексикології, стилістики у вітчизняній і зарубіжній лінгвістичній науці та базовими напрямками та підходами до розв'язання філологічних проблем, а

також у виокремленні найактуальніших наукових шкіл, що ведуть розробки у цих областях.

У розробці представлена базова інформація про новітні досягнення сучасних студій з германістики, лінгвістичні школи та їх підходи до розуміння теперішнього стану і розвитку германських мов. Подані питання для самопідготовки та тези для проведення дискусій.

У результаті вивчення навчальної дисципліни Ви повинні будете **знати:** термінологічний апарат дисципліни; напрями германського та світового мовознавства з огляду на сучасний парадигмальний простір гуманітарного знання; ключові проблеми та дискусійні питання основних напрямів германського та світового мовознавства; **вміти:** оперувати термінологічним апаратом кожного з напрямів лінгвістичних досліджень; характеризувати основні парадигми досліджень сучасного германського мовознавства; читати наукові публікації та проводити дослідження в галузі англійської лінгвістики або контрастивної лінгвістики.

Ми сподіваємося, що цей курс надасть вам необхідні знання та інструменти для глибокого розуміння і дослідження актуальних проблем германістики.

Ми також маємо надію, що ця дисципліна спонукає вас до критичного мислення, дебатів та досліджень у сфері германістики, та що ви знайдете у ній інтелектуальну стимуляцію та інспірацію для майбутніх кар'єрних досягнень.

Бажаємо вам успішного та цікавого навчання на цьому курсі та надіємося, що ви знайдете його корисним і незабутнім досвідом у вашому академічному шляху.

З найкращими побажаннями,

І.Б. Морозова,

О.О. Пожарицька,

[iryna.b.morozova@gmail.com](mailto:iryna.b.morozova@gmail.com)

## GERMANISTICS AS PART OF LINGUISTICS

The common ancestor of all of the languages in this branch is called Proto-Germanic, also known as Common Germanic, which was spoken in about the middle of the 1st millennium BC in Iron Age Scandinavia.

German is widely considered among the easier languages for native English speakers to pick up.

Germanic languages belong to a vast Indo-European family of languages. Dutch and Frisian are spoken in the Netherlands and Denmark; Norwegian in Norway, Swedish in Sweden, Icelandic in Iceland, Yiddish is spoken in Israel, English in the UK, Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, etc. Some modern German languages are national literary languages; others are used with other national languages or are just local dialects. In the 1st century AD G. L. were spoken only in Germany and its surrounding territories as well as Scandinavia. According to the dialectal differences G. L. are classified into:

- North (Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic, Faroese)
- West (High/Low German, Dutch, Frisian, English, Yiddish, Afrikaans)
- East (Gothic, Burgundian, Vandalic)

That's because these languages are true linguistic siblings—originating from the exact same mother tongue. In fact, eighty of the hundred most used words in English are of Germanic origin. These most basic, common words in English and German derive from the same roots, making them amazingly similar. That's why an English word like "friend" is "*freund*" in German. Plus, there are an incredible number of German and English words that aren't simply related, but identical: *arm*, *hand*, *kindergarten*, *angst*, *bitter*, and many more.

Generally, if you're an English speaker with no exposure to other languages, here are some of the most challenging: Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Icelandic, Thai, Vietnamese, Finnish, Japanese, and Korean.

Here's the good news; when you're excited to learn a new language, even the hardest ones can simply seem fun. And the sense of accomplishment that comes with taking on the challenge—and overcoming it—is invaluable.

Traditionally five levels are recognised in any language study (including Germanistics): phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics. Pragmatics may also be considered as a separate level from semantics.

*Metalinguage is language that describes language..* We look at metalanguage as a way to help give us insight into the ideas that they're trying to portray.

Examples Of Metalanguage:

- ◆ Novel (*Tone, Narrator, Grammar and punctuation, Characterisation Foreshadowing*)
- ◆ Grammar (Verb, Noun, Adjective, sentence)

## HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF GERMANISTICS

The origin of the words “German”, “Germanistics”, and “Linguistics” can be traced back to their respective historical and linguistic roots:

### **German :**

- **Origin:** The word «German» to describe the people of Germany and the German language has its origins in Latin. The Romans referred to the people living across the Rhine River as «Germani» or «Germanicus.» The exact origin of this term is uncertain, but it is believed to have been derived from a Celtic word meaning «neighbor» or «those who are near» (comparing them to the Celts).
- **Evolution:** Over time, «Germani» evolved into «German» in various European languages, including Old English, where it was used to refer

to the people of what we now call Germany. The term «German» is used in English to describe both the language and the people of Germany.

### **Germanistics :**

- **Origin:** «Germanistics» is a modern academic term used to describe the study of the German language, literature, culture, and linguistics. It is derived from the word «German,» as explained above, and the suffix «-istics.» The «-istics» suffix is borrowed from Greek and is commonly used in the formation of academic disciplines to indicate the study or science of a particular subject.

- **Evolution:** The term «Germanistics» has its roots in the 19th and 20th centuries when the academic study of various languages and cultures became more specialized and formalized. It is used to encompass the comprehensive study of all aspects related to the Germanic languages and cultures.

### **Linguistics :**

- **Origin:** «Linguistics» is the scientific study of language, including its structure, evolution, and usage. The term «linguistics» is derived from the Latin word «lingua,» which means «tongue» or «language,» and the suffix «-istics.» In this case, the suffix «-istics» is also used to indicate the scientific study of language.

- **Evolution:** The formal discipline of linguistics emerged in the 19th century, but the study of language has ancient roots. The term «linguistics» became widely accepted as the name for this field of study in the modern academic sense, encompassing various subfields like phonetics, syntax, semantics, and sociolinguistics.

In summary, the words «German», «Germanistics», and «Linguistics» have their origins in Latin and Greek, and they have evolved over time to

describe the study of the Germanic languages and cultures, as well as the scientific study of language in general.

The subject of «Germanistics,» which encompasses both English and German Studies, has a rich history that reflects the evolving relationship between the German and English languages and cultures. Here is an overview of the history of «Germanistics».

### **Early Studies of the Germanic Languages and Literatures:**

The academic study of German language and literature began to take shape in the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. German universities, such as the University of Leipzig, played a significant role in fostering early interest in the German language. Universities of Oxford and Cambridge sparked the interest in Anglistics.

### **Philology and Comparative Linguistics:**

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the field of philology emerged, which involved the systematic study of languages and their historical development. Scholars like Jacob Grimm, known for the Grimm Brothers' fairy tales, made important contributions to the study of the Germanic languages during this period.

Comparative linguistics, which aimed to understand the relationships between different languages, also played a role in the development of Germanistics.

### **Emergence of Germanistics as a Discipline:**

By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Germanistics had developed into a distinct academic discipline. It encompassed the study of all Germanic languages, literatures, cultures, and linguistics.

Universities in Germany, the UK, the USA, and other countries began offering specialized programs in Germanistics & Anglistics.

### **Impact of World Wars and Migration:**

The two World Wars in the 20th century had a profound impact on the study of German language and culture. During these periods, there was both interest in understanding the German-speaking world and a need for diplomatic and military communication. Anglistics, as part of Germanistics, also flourished as the language of communication of the allied forces who fought against the Nazis.

Migration of German-speaking populations to other countries, including the United States, led to the establishment of German Studies programs in universities worldwide. The victory in World War II against the Nazis also inspired people to delve deeper into the linguistics of the English language.

### **Incorporation of English Studies:**

English Studies as a discipline which encompasses the study of English language, literature, and culture developed alongside German Studies. Both fields share a common interest in the study of language and literature.

In some academic institutions, Germanistics and English Studies have been brought together under the umbrella of Comparative Literature or Modern Languages programs.

### **Modern Germanistics:**

Today, Germanistics remains a vibrant academic discipline that explores the German- and English-speaking world in all its complexity. It includes the study of Germanic literatures, linguistics, cultural studies, and interdisciplinary approaches that examine the influence of the Germanic languages speaking world on global culture and vice versa.

English Studies continues to thrive, focusing on the English language, literature, and cultural contexts across the globe.

### **Interdisciplinary Approaches and Globalization:**

In response to globalization, both German Studies and English Studies have embraced interdisciplinary approaches that explore the connections between language, culture, politics, and society in a global context.

These fields also engage with topics such as translation studies, comparative literature, film studies, and digital humanities.

In summary, the history of «Germanistics» and «English Studies» reflects the evolution of academic disciplines dedicated to the study of language, literature, and culture. These fields have adapted to the changing historical, cultural, and geopolitical contexts, and they continue to thrive as vibrant areas of academic inquiry and cultural exploration.

## **JACOB GRIMM, THE GREAT CONSONANT SHIFT, AND HIS INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF GERMANISTICS**

Jacob Grimm, along with his brother Wilhelm Grimm, is best known for his work on the collection of German folktales, «Grimm's Fairy Tales.» However, he also made significant contributions to the field of linguistics, particularly in the study of the German language. One of his notable contributions is his research on the Great Consonant Shift, which had a profound impact on the development of Germanistics.

### **Jacob Grimm and His Contribution to Germanistics:**

#### **The Great Consonant Shift :**

Jacob Grimm is renowned for his pioneering work in historical linguistics, specifically for his observations on the Great Consonant Shift. This linguistic phenomenon refers to a series of systematic sound changes that

occurred in the German language during the transition from Middle High German to Early New High German (around the 6th to 8th centuries).

Grimm's Law, named after Jacob Grimm, is one of the key components of the Great Consonant Shift. Grimm formulated this law in the early 19th century, which described a set of sound shifts affecting consonants in the Germanic languages. For example, it explained why certain consonant sounds in German corresponded to different sounds in other Indo-European languages. His work on Grimm's Law significantly advanced the understanding of historical linguistics and the evolution of the German language.

### **Deutsche Grammatik :**

Jacob Grimm, along with his brother Wilhelm, authored «Deutsche Grammatik» (German Grammar), which is considered one of the foundational texts in the study of German linguistics. This comprehensive work covered various aspects of the German language, including its historical development, phonetics, morphology, and syntax.

«Deutsche Grammatik» provided a systematic analysis of the German language and its historical evolution, making it an essential resource for scholars and students interested in Germanistics.

### **Lexicon and Dictionary Work :**

Jacob Grimm was involved in lexicographical work as well. He worked on German dictionaries and contributed to the compilation of the German Dictionary (Deutsches Wörterbuch), which remains one of the most extensive and authoritative dictionaries of the German language.

### **Impact on Germanistics :**

Jacob Grimm's research on the Great Consonant Shift and his contributions to the study of the German language had a profound and lasting impact on the field of Germanistics. His work laid the foundation for the systematic study of historical linguistics within the context of German and

contributed to a deeper understanding of the development of the Germanic languages.

Grimm's insights into language change and linguistic history continue to be of great importance to scholars in Germanistics and historical linguistics, and his legacy endures in the academic study of the Germanic languages and their evolution.

In summary, Jacob Grimm's work on the Great Consonant Shift, his formulation of Grimm's Law, and his contributions to the study of the Germanic languages through «Deutsche Grammatik» and lexicographical efforts have left an indelible mark on the field of Germanistics and have significantly advanced our understanding of the history and structure of the Germanic languages.

## **WHO IS THE REAL FATHER OF LINGUISTICS?**

**Noam Chomsky** is known as the father of modern linguistics. Back in 1957, Chomsky, with his revolutionary book “Syntactic Structures,” laid the foundation of his non-empiricist theory of language.

Two years later, with his review of B. F. Skinner’s “Verbal Behavior,” he argued that Behaviorism, the dominant approach to language at the time, was no longer to be the way of studying language.

### **What is linguistics now?**

While Skinner focused on the language people were observed using, Chomsky was interested in the underlying structure of language. This shift in focus affected not only how we view the structure of language, but how it might be learned as well; while Skinner believed that children learn language by

imitating and repeating what they hear, Chomsky hypothesized that language learning went far deeper than that.

Chomsky made the study of language scientific. He demonstrated that despite the observable variety of the world's languages, there is likely only one inventory of linguistic features. All languages — dead, still used, or even future ones — are combinations of these elements. After Chomsky, **linguistics is defined as 'the scientific study of language'— 'language' in the singular.**

### **What is Chomsky's theory?**

As Chomsky's work continued, he posed a novel approach to thinking about language, called the theory of **Universal Grammar**. This intricate theory includes the idea **that humans are genetically endowed with knowledge of the linguistic features of which language is composed and the ability to determine how those features are organized into the language(s) they hear around them.**

### **Why does the scientific study of linguistics matter?**

When we treat language as a science, we can:

**Start with general theories** that explain *why languages are the way they are*. Chomsky's theory, for example, says that there is a universal basis, or faculty, in the mind, innate in every human and dedicated to language, that incorporates the basic features of language. What we all do while learning our mother tongue at a tender age, then, is determine relationships between these features based on the data we get by exposure to an unorganized and random set of utterances via interaction with other speakers.

**Then, these theories generate testable hypotheses**, rules, and falsifiable predictions about what occurs in a language, relative to all human languages. The data used to test these hypotheses are native speakers' intuitions on the grammatical and ungrammatical nature of the sentences of their language: What

we study is what people implicitly know about their language. We do not study whether sentences abide by the ‘rules’ of grammar, but whether grammatical and ungrammatical sentences can be explained with the hypotheses we make.

To give an example, we don’t study why 'He love mangoes' is incorrect; rather, we investigate why 'John eats occasionally mangos' is not a well-formed sentence in English, while it is perfectly grammatical in Greek. What prevents the adverb 'occasionally' from being placed between the verb 'eats' and the noun 'mangos' in English, but not in Greek? Or take Sicilian and Italian, for example — what makes them so grammatically different? **By examining native speakers’ underlying knowledge we get a better understanding of how the mind works: language is a window into the mind.**

**And finally, we see how well these theories can accommodate empirical data.** This can result in hypotheses being changed, refined, or even abandoned after they are tested. As our theories about the structure of language grow, they help to inform theories of how languages might be learned.

### **Noam Chomsky & His Input into Linguistics:      An Outline**

Noam Chomsky is a renowned linguist, cognitive scientist, and philosopher who made significant contributions to the field of linguistics, particularly with his revolutionary theory of language acquisition. Chomsky's theory, known as transformational-generative grammar and later as the «universal grammar» theory, has had a profound impact on our understanding of how humans acquire and use language.

Key aspects of Chomsky's theory of language acquisition include:

### **Innate Language Faculty:**

Chomsky proposed that humans are born with an innate language faculty, a biological predisposition that enables them to acquire language. He argued that this innate capacity for language is a fundamental part of human nature.

### **Universal Grammar:**

Chomsky introduced the concept of «universal grammar,» which posits that there is a common underlying structure to all human languages. According to this theory, the differences we observe among languages are surface manifestations of a shared deep structure.

### **Transformational Grammar:**

Chomsky's early work focused on transformational grammar, a formal framework for describing the rules that govern sentence structure in a language. Transformational rules were proposed to account for the transformations that generate different grammatical structures from a common underlying structure.

### **Critical Period Hypothesis:**

Chomsky also proposed the idea of a critical period for language acquisition, suggesting that there is an optimal window of time during which children can acquire language most effectively. He argued that if language exposure does not occur during this critical period, language acquisition becomes significantly more challenging.

### **Chomskyan Revolution:**

Chomsky's work challenged prevailing behaviorist theories of language acquisition, particularly B.F. Skinner's theory of operant conditioning. Chomsky argued that the behaviorist approach could not adequately explain the complexity and speed of language acquisition, leading to what is often referred to as the «Chomskyan revolution» in linguistics.

### **Generative Grammar:**

Chomsky's generative grammar introduced the notion of «deep structure» and «surface structure» in language. Deep structure represents the underlying

meaning of a sentence, while surface structure represents the actual arrangement of words and phrases. Transformations were used to derive surface structure from deep structure.

### **Language as a Creative Process:**

Chomsky emphasized that language is a creative and generative process. People have the ability to produce and understand an infinite number of novel sentences, which is facilitated by the underlying principles of universal grammar.

Chomsky's theory of language acquisition and universal grammar has sparked extensive research and debate in the fields of linguistics, psychology, and cognitive science. While not without criticism and alternative theories, Chomsky's work remains foundational to our understanding of the human capacity for language and the cognitive mechanisms that underlie language acquisition and use.

Thus, today in linguistics, as in the other sciences, we aim at explaining *some* data and not everything — making small steps at a time. Many steps have been made since 1957, but we still have a long way to go. However, we have a solid path to follow **thanks to Noam Chomsky**.

## **MODERN LINGUISTICS: PURPOSES, BRANCHES, FEATURES**

### **What are the 3 purposes of language and linguistics?**

Language serves various purposes in communication, and these purposes can be broadly categorized into three main functions: informative, expressive, and directive. Each of these functions plays a crucial role in conveying messages and facilitating effective communication:

#### **◆ Informative Purpose:**

**Objective:** The informative purpose of language is to convey factual information, describe events, share knowledge, and provide details about a subject.

**Examples:** Informative language is used in textbooks, news reports, academic papers, and technical manuals. It aims to present information in a clear, accurate, and unbiased manner.

**Goal:** The primary goal of informative language is to inform, educate, and communicate facts and data to the audience.

#### **◆ Expressive Purpose:**

**Subjective:** The expressive purpose of language is to convey emotions, feelings, thoughts, and personal experiences. It allows individuals to express their inner states and attitudes.

**Examples:** Expressive language is used in poetry, literature, art, music, personal narratives, and conversations where people share their emotions and opinions.

**Goal:** The goal of expressive language is to convey the speaker's or writer's emotions, viewpoints, and personal experiences. It often involves the use of vivid imagery, metaphors, and figurative language to evoke emotional responses in the audience.

### ◆ **Directive Purpose:**

**Persuasive:** The directive purpose of language is to influence or guide the actions, decisions, or behaviors of others. It is often used to give commands, make requests, offer advice, or persuade someone to do something.

**Examples:** Directive language is found in advertisements, speeches, instructions, legal documents, and everyday conversations where individuals seek to persuade or direct others.

**Goal:** The goal of directive language is to prompt specific actions or responses from the listener or reader. It relies on persuasive techniques, such as argumentation, suggestion, or the use of imperatives, to achieve its purpose.

In practice, language often serves multiple purposes simultaneously, depending on the context and the speaker's or writer's intentions. Effective communication frequently involves a balance of these three language functions to convey information, express emotions, and direct or influence the behavior of the audience.

Understanding the multifaceted nature of language and its various purposes is essential for effective communication, as it allows individuals to adapt their language use to different situations and effectively convey their messages to diverse audiences.

### **The most basic branches of linguistics are:**

- Phonetics - the study of speech sounds in their physical aspects.
- Phonology - the study of speech sounds in their cognitive aspects.

- Morphology - the study of the formation of words.
- Syntax - the study of the formation of sentences.
- Semantics - the study of meaning.
- Pragmatics - the study of language use.

Modern linguistics is characterized by the following **features** :

- 1- PRIORITY OF THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE.
- 2- LINGUISTICS IS A DESCRIPTIVE (not prescriptive) SCIENCE. ...
- 3- THE LINGUIST IS INTERESTED IN ALL LANGUAGES. ...
- 4- PRIORITY OF SYNCHRONIC DESCRIPTION. ...
- 5- THE STRUCTURAL APPROACH. ...
- 6- LANGUE AND PAROLE.

### **What is the main concern of modern linguistics?**

Modern linguists primarily concern themselves with either **theoretical or applied linguistics**. Their research includes many facets of language and language structure, which can be studied at various levels.

Language teaching, in its turn, includes 7 language components that aim at developing learners' language competency. These are **vocabulary, grammar, functions, reading, listening, speaking, and writing**.

## KEY ACADEMIC CHALLENGES OF GERMANIC, ENGLISH AND GENERAL LINGUISTICS TODAY

### Germanic Linguistics:

- **Diversity of Germanic Languages:** One challenge is the study of the diverse range of Germanic languages, including German, English, Dutch, Swedish, and more. Maintaining a balance between studying the larger, more widely spoken languages and preserving the smaller, endangered languages can be a challenge.
- **Historical Linguistics:** Understanding the historical development of Germanic languages and tracing their linguistic ancestry remains a complex task. Researchers continue to explore the historical evolution of these languages and their interrelationships.
- **Sociolinguistic Variation:** Investigating sociolinguistic variation within Germanic languages, including regional dialects and sociolects, is an ongoing challenge. This area is crucial for understanding language change and variation.

### English Linguistics:

- **Globalization of English:** The global spread of English presents challenges related to its various forms, such as World Englishes and English as a lingua franca. Researchers need to explore how English is evolving as a global language and its impact on linguistic diversity.
- **Language Change:** Tracking and analyzing ongoing language change in English is a constant challenge. This includes shifts in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.
- **Digital Communication:** The rise of digital communication platforms and social media has changed the way English is used. Understanding

the linguistic features and implications of digital discourse is a contemporary challenge.

### **General Linguistics:**

- **Interdisciplinary Research:** Linguistics increasingly intersects with other fields, such as cognitive science, neuroscience, and computer science. Integrating insights from these disciplines while maintaining the integrity of linguistic research is a challenge.
- **Complexity of Human Language:** Understanding the inherent complexity of human language, including its syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, remains a central challenge in linguistics. Researchers seek to uncover the cognitive mechanisms that underlie linguistic processing.
- **Language Documentation and Endangered Languages:** Documenting and preserving endangered languages is an urgent challenge in linguistics. Many languages are at risk of extinction, and efforts are needed to document and revitalize them.
- **Quantitative Methods:** Linguistics is increasingly embracing quantitative and computational methods. Developing and applying these methods effectively is a challenge for researchers, especially those transitioning from traditional qualitative approaches.
- **Ethical Considerations:** Ethical issues in linguistic research, including consent, representation, and cultural sensitivity, are receiving more attention. Linguists must navigate these considerations while conducting their research.

Thus, the following can be outlined as a conclusion about the topical problems facing Germanistics today:

### **1. Sociolinguistic Diversity and Multilingualism:**

Linguists in both Germanic and English linguistics face the challenge of studying languages that are spoken across a wide range of dialects, sociolects, and variations. Multilingualism is also a prevalent phenomenon in many regions. Understanding how languages change and interact in diverse social and cultural contexts is a crucial area of research.

## **2. Digital and Computational Linguistics:**

The increasing reliance on technology and the growth of digital communication present new challenges and opportunities. Linguists need to explore how languages are used in digital spaces, including social media, and develop computational tools and methods for linguistic analysis.

## **3. Language Documentation and Endangered Languages:**

The preservation of endangered languages is a pressing concern in linguistics. Researchers need to document and revitalize languages that are at risk of extinction, which often involves collaboration with indigenous communities and addressing ethical and cultural considerations.

## **4. Cognitive Linguistics and Neurolinguistics:**

Cognitive linguistics and neurolinguistics are areas of ongoing research. Linguists are exploring how language is processed in the brain, how it relates to cognition, and how it shapes thought and perception.

## **5. Psycholinguistics and Language Acquisition:**

Understanding the mechanisms of language acquisition and how children and adults learn languages is a fundamental challenge. Research in psycholinguistics is critical for uncovering the cognitive processes involved in language learning and use.

## **6. Sociolinguistics and Language Change:**

Sociolinguists are studying how language changes over time, influenced by social factors such as class, ethnicity, and gender. They also examine language variation in different contexts and communities.

## **7. Language and Identity:**

The relationship between language and identity is a complex area of study. Linguists are exploring how individuals and communities construct their identities through language use, which can have sociopolitical implications.

### **8. Machine Translation and Natural Language Processing:**

As machine translation and natural language processing technologies advance, linguists are challenged to address issues related to translation quality, linguistic diversity, and the ethical implications of automated language processing.

### **9. Interdisciplinary Collaboration:**

Linguistics increasingly intersects with other disciplines, such as anthropology, psychology, cognitive science, and computer science. Collaborative research across these fields is essential for addressing complex linguistic questions.

### **10. Ethical and Sociopolitical Considerations:**

Linguists must consider the ethical implications of their research, especially when working with marginalized communities or endangered languages. Additionally, linguistic research can inform debates about language policies and social justice.

These challenges reflect the dynamic nature of linguistic research and the evolving ways in which language is used, studied, and understood in contemporary society. Researchers in these fields continually adapt and innovate to address these challenges and contribute to our understanding of language and communication.

The academic landscape is dynamic, and new challenges may emerge soon.

## WATCH THEM SPEAKING!

Use the QR-codes to watch the videos showing famous linguists or outlining crucial problems of modern studies in Germanistics. Prepare to discuss them in class.

### **1. Noam Chomsky: Issues in Modern Linguistics**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkXK2CqB3No>



*Noam Chomsky: Issues in  
Modern Linguistics*

### **2. Why study Applied Linguistics?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak3y0ycRFig>



*Why study Applied Linguistics?*

### **3. A course in Cognitive Linguistics: Usage-based linguistics**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NAKqxQVpvFg>



*A course in Cognitive Linguistics:  
Usage-based linguistics*

### **4. Linguistics, Style and Writing in the 21st Century - with Steven Pinker**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV5J6BfToSw>



*Linguistics, Style and Writing in the  
21st Century - with Steven Pinker*

## 5. Raymond Murphy 'Let the Language speak for itself'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfl\\_IgXBfh0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfl_IgXBfh0)



*Raymond Murphy 'Let the Language  
speak for itself'*

## 6. George Lakoff on Embodied Cognition and Language

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWYaoAoijdQ>



*George Lakoff on Embodied  
Cognition and Language*

## TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION & DEBATE

Read the statements below & comment upon them. Prepare to take part in the debate in class. Read up on the subject so as to ground your opinion and quote famous linguists.

**Topic 3. Teaching language and using it. Grammar used as an applied branch of modern linguistics. The problem of coding and decoding information on the level of language.**

**1. Language Teaching and Learning:** Debate the most effective methods and approaches for teaching German and English as second languages. How can modern trends in language pedagogy improve language acquisition?

**2. Grammar** serves as a practical subfield within contemporary linguistics. It deals with the challenge of encoding and deciphering information within the realm of language, including the phenomenon of code-switching. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Ground your opinion. Quote some famous linguists.

**3.** How can a deeper understanding of grammar, as provided by modern linguistic research, enhance language **teaching methodologies** in the disciplines of Germanistics and Anglistics?

**4.** In the context of language instruction, what are the advantages and disadvantages of **prioritizing grammar over other language components** such as vocabulary and communication skills?

**5.** How has the **digital age** transformed the way languages are taught and learned, and how should modern language educators adapt to these changes in the coding and decoding of linguistic information?

**6.** Should the teaching of grammar differ significantly between Germanistics and Anglistics due to **linguistic variations and cultural differences**? What are the key considerations when adapting teaching methods for each discipline?

7. Considering the global diversity of English and German dialects, how can educators strike a balance between teaching **standardized grammar** and acknowledging regional variations? What impact does this have on effective communication?

**Topic 4. Cognitive linguistics. Metaphor and metonymical types of human mentality. NLP, manipulation and suggestion**

1. **Cognitive Linguistics**, which encompasses the study of metaphor and metonymy as they relate to different facets of human cognition, offers an intriguing subject for examination. Additionally, exploring neurolinguistic programming (NLP) provides valuable insights into the use of linguistic and psychological techniques for personal development and effective communication. Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Ground your opinion. Quote some famous linguists.

2. **Sociolinguistics and Gender linguistics** explore the cultural and historical foundations of distinct speech patterns and models. Is it a correct statement or not? Ground your opinion. Quote some famous linguists.

3. **The Role of Gestalt Principles in Language Perception:** Debate the extent to which Gestalt principles, such as proximity, similarity, and closure, influence the perception and comprehension of linguistic structures.

4. **Gestalt Theory and Syntax:** Discuss how Gestalt principles can be applied to syntax and sentence structure. Can Gestalt theory offer insights into language parsing and sentence comprehension?

5. **Holistic vs. Analytic Approaches:** Debate the contrast between holistic (Gestalt) and analytic approaches in language processing. Which approach is more accurate in explaining how humans perceive and understand linguistic patterns?

6. **Multimodal Perception and Language:** Explore the interaction between visual, auditory, and linguistic stimuli in perception. How do Gestalt

principles apply to the integration of multiple sensory modalities in language processing?

**7. Gestalt Linguistics and Psycholinguistics:** Discuss the overlap between Gestalt linguistics and psycholinguistics. How can Gestalt principles inform our understanding of language acquisition and language production?

**8. Cultural Variations in Gestalt Perception:** Analyze how cultural factors may influence the application of Gestalt principles in language perception. Do different cultures process linguistic patterns differently?

**9. The Future of Gestalt Linguistics:** Reflect on the potential future directions and applications of Gestalt linguistics. What are the emerging research areas and unanswered questions in this field?

**Topic 5. Socio- and Gender linguistics. Speech etiquette. Cultural and historical premises of specific speech models. The problem of speech mapping. Language and Culture Studies**

**1. Language Evolution and Social Change:** To what extent have historical societal changes influenced language evolution, especially concerning gender roles and cultural shifts?

**2. Language and Power Dynamics:** How do specific speech models reinforce or challenge power structures in different cultures and historical periods, particularly in terms of gender and social hierarchies?

**3. Language and Identity:** How does language use shape individual and group identities in diverse cultural and historical contexts, and how does this relate to sociolinguistic and gender dynamics?

**4. Historical Shifts in Gendered Language:** Debate the historical shifts in language related to gender, such as the emergence of gender-neutral language and the impact of feminism on linguistic practices.

**5. Cultural Variation in Politeness Norms:** Discuss how cultural and historical factors contribute to the development of politeness norms,

particularly in relation to gendered speech.

**6. Intersectionality and Language:** Explore the intersectionality of gender, ethnicity, and other social factors in shaping speech models and linguistic practices across different cultures and times.

**7. Preservation of Endangered Languages:** Debate strategies for preserving and revitalizing endangered languages, considering the role of gender-specific speech in these efforts.

**8. Media Representation and Linguistic Stereotypes:** Examine how media representations of gender and culture can perpetuate linguistic stereotypes and influence language use in society.

**9. Language Policy and Gender Neutrality:** Discuss the impact of language policies on promoting gender-neutral language and the challenges of implementing such policies in different cultural and historical contexts.

**10. Future Trends in Gender Linguistics:** Predict and debate potential future trends in gender linguistics, considering the evolving cultural and societal landscapes.

**Topic 6: Communicative Situation. The problem of speech register. Dialogue and Monologue Communication. Communicative Linguistics. Applied Linguistics. Corpus Linguistics**

**1. Corpus Linguistics:** Analyze the role of corpus linguistics in studying German and English. How are large language databases shaping linguistic research?

**2. Sociolinguistic Studies:** Explore recent sociolinguistic research trends in both Germanistics and Anglistics. How are sociolinguists addressing issues of language and identity?

**3. Communicative Situation:** The context, in which communication takes place, including factors such as the setting, participants, and purpose of the interaction, influences the conversation itself. **Speech Style Challenge:** You

adapt your speech or language register to suit the specific context or situation in which you are communicating. **Conversational vs. Solitary Communication:** There are bright distinctions between interactions involving dialogue, where multiple participants engage in conversation, and monologue, where communication is one-sided and solitary. Speak on any of the problems mentioned. Quote some famous linguists.

**4. Environmental Linguistics:** Exploring the relationship between language, culture, and the environment, with a focus on eco-linguistics and the preservation of endangered languages. Speak on the problem mentioned. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**5. Technology-Enhanced Language Learning:** With the rapid advancements in technology, applied linguistics has been exploring the integration of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and other technologies into language education and assessment. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**6. Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity:** In an increasingly globalized world, researchers are studying the dynamics of multilingualism, including its impact on identity, cognitive processes, and language acquisition. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**7. Language Policy and Planning:** Applied linguists are actively engaged in advising governments and organizations on language policy, including issues related to language revitalization, linguistic human rights, and bilingual education. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**8. Language and Social Media:** The study of language in online and social media contexts, including issues related to online identity, digital discourse, and the impact of social media on language change. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**9. Corpus Linguistics:** Advances in corpus linguistics have enabled

researchers to analyze large datasets of authentic language use, providing insights into variation, language change, and the development of linguistic resources. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**10. Cultural Pragmatics:** Investigating how culture influences communication styles and pragmatic norms, with a focus on intercultural communication and misunderstandings. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**11. Language and Health Communication:** Research on the language of healthcare, medical discourse, and doctor-patient communication, particularly relevant in light of global health challenges. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**12. Critical Applied Linguistics:** Scholars are increasingly examining issues of power, ideology, and social justice in language education, challenging established norms and practices. Quote some famous linguists and sum up the modern developments in this area.

**Topic 7: Psycholinguistics & neurolinguistics: their origin, differences and perspectives of development. The problem of bilingualism and children's acquisition of speech**

**1. Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics** are the Future. Their Origins, Distinctions, and Future Directions. Speak on any of the problems mentioned. Quote some famous linguists.

**2. Language Contact and Influence:** Discuss the historical and contemporary instances of language contact between German and English. How has this contact influenced both languages, and what are the implications for linguistic research?

**3. Language Variation and Identity:** Debate the role of language variation in shaping individual and group identities in German-speaking and

English-speaking communities. How does language choice reflect cultural identity?

**4. Bilingualism and Multilingualism:** Explore the challenges and benefits of bilingualism and multilingualism in the German-speaking and English-speaking worlds. How do these linguistic phenomena relate to language maintenance and language shift?

**5. Language Policy and Planning:** Discuss the language policies in German-speaking countries and English-speaking countries. How do governments and institutions promote or inhibit linguistic diversity and language preservation?

**6. Gestalt Linguistics in Second Language Acquisition:** Explore the implications of Gestalt linguistics for second language acquisition. How can an understanding of Gestalt principles aid language learners in comprehending and producing speech?

**7. Neurocognitive Mechanisms:** Debate the neural mechanisms underlying Gestalt-based language perception. How do these mechanisms operate in the brain, and what are their implications for cognitive science?

**8. Gestalt Linguistics and Artificial Intelligence:** Discuss the relevance of Gestalt principles in the development of natural language processing algorithms and AI systems. Can these principles enhance machine understanding of human language?

## **Topic 8. Functional and Descriptive linguistics. Structural Linguistics and Generative Semantics. Functional and Descriptive linguistics. Theories in Linguistic Semantics**

**1. Language Technology and Digital Communication:** Explore the impact of technology on the German and English languages. How has the digital age affected language use, and what are the linguistic consequences of online communication?

**2. Migration and Language:** Discuss the linguistic challenges faced by immigrants and refugees in German-speaking and English-speaking countries. How do these individuals adapt to new linguistic environments, and how does migration influence language change?

**3. Dialectology and Regional Variation:** Debate the preservation and study of dialects in German and English. What is the significance of regional variation, and how does it affect language standardization?

**4. Language and Technology:** Discuss the integration of technology in language research, such as automatic translation tools and speech recognition. How are these advancements impacting the study of German and English?

**5. Language in Media and Pop Culture:** Examine the influence of media, popular culture, and social media on the German and English languages. How do linguistic trends emerge from these sources?

**6. Multimodal Communication:** Analyze how linguistic research is adapting to study various modes of communication, including visual, auditory, and digital forms.

**7. Language and Globalization:** Explore how globalization is shaping the use of German and English as global lingua franca. What are the implications for linguistic diversity and cultural exchange?

**8. Functional and Descriptive Linguistics** as fields concerned with understanding the practical use and analysis of language. Speak on any of the problems mentioned. Quote some famous linguists.

**9. Structural Linguistics and Generative Semantics** as approaches that involve examining the inherent structure of language and exploring how meaning is generated within language. Which is more important in linguistics & should be paid more attention to – Meaning or Form?

## LIST OF USED AND RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

1. Морозова, І. Б. (2009). Парадигматичний аналіз структури і семантики елементарних комунікативних одиниць у світлі гештальт-теорії в сучасній англійській мові : монографія. Одеса : Друкарський дім.
2. Aitchison, J. (2020). *Language change: Progress or decay?* Cambridge University Press.
3. Baugh, A. C., & Cable, T. (2002). *A history of the English language* (5th ed.). Routledge.
4. Boase-Beier, J., Lodge, K., & Preece, J. (2002). *The German language: A linguistic introduction*. Blackwell Publishing.
5. Brinton, L. J., & Brinton, D. M. (2010). *The structure of modern English: A linguistic introduction*. John Benjamins Publishing Company.
6. Comrie, B. (1999). *Language universals and linguistic typology*. University of Chicago Press.
7. Chomsky, N. (2007). *Syntactic structures*. Mouton de Gruyter.
8. Crystal, D. (2010). *The Cambridge encyclopedia of the English language* (3rd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
9. Crystal, D. (2019). *English as a global language*. Cambridge University Press.
10. Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University. (2018). *Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics. The Ohio State University Press*.
11. Fowler, H. W., & Burchfield, R. W. (2017). *A dictionary of modern English usage* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.
12. Huang, Y. (Ed.). (2017). *The Routledge handbook of pragmatics*. Routledge.
13. Meyerhoff, M. (2019). *Introducing sociolinguistics*. Routledge.
14. Morozova, I. B., Abramova, Ie. Yu. (2019). Compliments as a specific methodological approach of optimizing the process of teaching foreign languages. *Advanced trends of the modern development of philology in*

*European countries : Collective monograph.* Riga : Izdevniecība “Baltija Publishing”, 136-156

15. Morozova, I. B., Pozharytska, O.O. (2021). Literary Characters and their Verbal Mimicry through the Prism of Gestalt Analysis. *Arab World English Journal (AWEJ)*, Volume 12, 2, June, 457-468. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.24093/awej/vol12no2.31> Web of Science
16. Ringe, D. (2006). *The Oxford introduction to Proto-Germanic and the Proto-Germanic world.* Oxford University Press.
17. Russ, C. V. J. (1999). *A history of the German language.* Oxford University Press.
18. Smith, K., Nordquist, D. (2018). *Functionalist and Usage-based Approaches to the Study of Language.* (In honor of Joan L. Bybee) Amsterdam/ Philadelphia: John Benjamins
19. Traxler, M. J., & Gernsbacher, M. A. (Eds.). (2018). *The Oxford handbook of psycholinguistics.* Oxford University Press.
20. McWhorter, J. H. (2001). *The power of Babel: A natural history of language.* Henry Holt.
21. Whorf, B. L., & Carroll, J. B. (2006). *Language, thought, and reality: Selected writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf.* MIT Press.

*Навчальне видання*

## **GERMANISTICS: TOPICAL PROBLEMS**

### **МЕТОДИЧНІ РЕКОМЕНДАЦІЇ**

до практичних занять та самостійної роботи  
з навчальної дисципліни “Актуальні проблеми  
германістики” для здобувачів вищої освіти другого  
(магістерського) рівня за спеціальністю 035 «Філологія»,  
спеціалізації 035.041 Германські мови та літератури  
(переклад включно), перша англійська

### **Укладачі**

**Морозова Ірина Борисівна**  
**Пожарицька Олена Олександрівна**

*В авторській редакції*

Підп. до друку 15.09.2023. Формат 60х84/16  
Ум.-друк. арк. 2,21. Наклад 100 пр.  
Зам. № 285

Видавництво «Освіта України»

04136, м. Київ, вул. Маршала Гречка, 13, оф. 218.

Свідоцтво про внесення до Державного реєстру  
суб'єктів видавничої справи ДК №1957 від 23.04.2009 р.  
Тел./факс (044) 507-04-52, (044) 228-81-29, (063) 237-59-92.

E-mail: osvita2005@gmail.com