LING E3015
Psycholinguistics and Semantics
Core Course

1. Aims:
To understand the relationship between language and mind, and explain how language process functions in human brain, analyze the process of language acquisition and development. To introduce the nature of meaning and give a knowledge of theories related to semantics.

2. Learning Outcomes:
   Psycholinguistics
   At the end of the course the students will be able to,
   - Describe the interrelationship between language and mind.
   - Explain language processing in human mind.
   - Describe process of language acquisition and language development.

   Semantics
   At the end of the course the student will be able to,
   - Define meaning and to understand the significance of meaning in practical usage.
   - Understand 'Meaning' in defining morpheme, word, sentence and utterance.
   - Understand the difference between the logical nature of meaning and the pragmatic meaning.
   - Understand non linguistics factors in interpreting the utterance meaning.
   - To apply different theories to make a semantic analysis on the given data.

3. Contents:
   Psycholinguistics
   i. Explaining the background of Psycholinguistics.
   The human community and non-human communication.
   The relationship between language and the brain, Language process and language acquisition.
   ii. Different Psycholinguistics hypotheses. Applying the knowledge of
psycholinguistics and studying the problems in different social categories.

iii. Theories and ideas introduced by different Psycholinguistics such as Chomsky, Skinner and Lenneberg.

Semantics
i. History of semantic studies.
ii. Definitions of meaning
iii. Semantic units of language
iv. Utterance meaning and sentence
v. Principles of logical semantics
vi. Principle of pragmatics

4. Assessment:
End of the year examination: three hour question paper.

5. Recommended Reading:
Psycholinguistics


Lenneberg, E.H.(1967).Biological Foundation of Language


Predeaux - Psycholinguistics


Semantics
