



LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND COGNITION: AN INTRODUCTION

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INTENDED AUDIENCE : Undergraduates, Postgraduates, PhD students, Faculty Development Programme

COURSE OUTLINE :

The course approaches language studies from the cognitive science perspective. Language does not work in a vacuum and is related to other mental faculty. Together they help us humans make sense of our experiences. Again, experiences can be different from one culture to another, thus bringing in another angle to the mind and cognition relationship: culture. This course gives a brief overview of the relation between language, cognition and culture, discussed through three different angles of Cognitive Linguistics, cognitive neuroscience of language and language processing. Each of these domains will be discussed in terms of theoretical underpinning as well as the latest state of the art research. The lectures will connect language structure, brain areas responsible for various linguistic functions, relationship of language with attention, executive control and so on, embedding them in the cultural backdrop wherever applicable. The interaction between the inner and outer world of humans through language is the main focus of this course.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Bidisha Som is a teacher-researcher in Linguistics. She received her Masters to PhD degrees from JNU, New Delhi. She is currently working as an Associate professor of Linguistics in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati. She has taught courses on bilingualism, language-cognition, and sociolinguistics as B Tech electives. Her research work is focused on language processing among bilinguals, language and culture interaction, cognitive linguistics. She has thirteen years of teaching experience at IITG.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: Introduction to cognition, mind, culture and language

Week 2: Categorization its relationship with language; cultural variation.

Week 3: Frames and their use, Frame analysis of culture, metonymy and metaphor

Week 4: Language and embodied mind: image schema, social cognition

Week 5: Language acquisition and social cognition

Week 6: Language in the brain: Cognitive neuroscience of language

Week 7: Language processing and attention

Week 8: Language, executive control, simulation semantics