

Inštitút anglistiky a amerikanistiky FF PU v Prešove

Program: anglický jazyk a anglofónne kultúry, Mgr.
Štátnicové témy

English language and linguistics

Brief subject description:

The topics cover central issues related to the rise, development and spread of the English language worldwide. Their underlying assumption is that English has come a long way to become a fully-fledged modern language which serves a multitude of purposes across many regions of the world and has also established itself as a global *lingua franca*. A number of topics deal with key issues in stylistics, sociolinguistics, pragmalinguistics as well as with essentials of (non-)literary translation taking into account selected streams of enquiry in interdisciplinary linguistics.

Areas of competence required:

- Candidates are expected to apply their comparative thinking across various stages of the English language's development;
- Candidates are expected to understand the present-day position and functioning of the English language as well as the sources of its variation across regions, users and usage;
- Candidates are required to demonstrate their abilities of abstract thinking in order to distinguish, contrast or compare various linguistic and translational phenomena, using specific examples;
- Candidates are required to use established terminology related to particular linguistic disciplines and translation theories;
- Examinees are required to introduce the drawn topic briefly, then move on to discuss specific details, and subsequently respond to any questions raised or comments made by the members of the state exam committee.

Exam topics and questions:

1. Historical linguistics

- The role of historical linguistics and its present-day relevance
- Distinguished linguists and their assets to comparative historical linguistics
- Sanskrit and its far-reaching impact on the enquiry into the Indo-European languages
- The Indo-European language family
- Grimm's & Verner's Laws: their overall importance for historical linguistics

2. Dark vs. prosperous times of the English language

- Periodization of the history of the English language with major socio-cultural and linguistic features
- Assets and liabilities of the English language from a linguistic perspective
- Central peoples playing a role in the formation of the English language across the centuries – comparison of their impact
- Distinguished historical personalities and their contribution to English

3. Old English

- General characteristics of the epoch
- Principal features of Old English grammar; comparison with present-day English

- Foreign influences on the development of Old English lexis: their comparison and remnants in present-day English
- Pre-eminent Old English literary monuments

4. Middle English

- General characteristics of the epoch
- Quintessential features of Middle English grammar and lexis; comparison with the previous periods and contemporary English
- Foreign influences on Middle English vocabulary; the French influence on the English language
- The Middle English literary corpus & Geoffrey Chaucer's credits

5. Early Modern English

- General characteristics of the period, the spirit of the Age and problems of English during the Renaissance
- The influence of Shakespeare, the King James Bible, Samuel Johnson's merits
- The Great Vowel Shift

6. Modern and Late Modern English periods

- Modern English: the rise of prescriptive grammar, features of lexis, strengths and limitations of 18th century literary language (J. Austen), the Industrial Revolution and its marks on English
- World War I and II and their linguistic legacy
- Late Modern English: the latest trends in the English language
- English as a global language – its current status and outlooks

7. Text, discourse and style

- Approaches to style, key representatives of stylistics
- Foregrounding vs. backgrounding
- Types of discourse

8. Stylistic resources of English

- Lingual, non-lingual, paralingual resources
- Interdisciplinary resources from pragmatics, sociolinguistics, text-linguistics, semiotics, discourse studies
- Multimodality

9. Language and society

- The scope of sociolinguistics
- Variety, language, dialect, accent
- Diglossia, polyglossia, bilingualism, multilingualism
- Code-switching, code-mixing
- Language functions in using language

10. Language variation – regional dialects

- Regional dialects of English in the UK
- American English – reflection of crucial historical events on its making
- Genetic ratio between British and North American English

- Common differences between BrE and AmE on all language planes
- Noah Webster's merits for American English

11. Language variation – social dialects

- Social variation: Standard English, vernacular and RP
- Social class dialects of English – linguistic features
- Social and regional variation of English in comparison

12. Language variation – gender, age and ethnicity

- Gender as a resource for language variation
- Age as a resource for language variation
- Ethnicity as a resource for language variation

13. Language and meaning

- Experiential processes and the structure of English
- The word classes of noun and verb – grammatical categories, motivation, realization
- Hallidayan systemic-functional approach to language – language macro-functions, register

14. Pragmatics

- Core topics in pragmatics: entailment, presupposition, implicature and their types
- *Austin's and Searle's models of speech acts*: locution, illocution and perlocution; direct and indirect speech acts; felicity and sincerity conditions; types of speech acts
- *Grice's model of Cooperative Principle* – maxims, violations of the principle
- Linguistic politeness: *Leech's* politeness maxims; *Brown's and Levinson's* negative and positive face, negative and positive politeness

15. Translation studies

- Key issues in (non-)literary translation: text diagnosis, source text, target text, translation process, equivalence vs. skopos theory, (un-)translatability, tensions in translation etc.
- Popovič's thinking on literary translation and his contribution
- Shifts and changes of expression in translation, time and space in literary translation
- (non-)literary translator's skills and competencies: fixed or in motion?
- the non-literary translator's contemporary toolkit including CAT-tools and machine translation

Recommended literature:

Bednárová-Gibová, K. 2014. *The English Language through the Prism of the Centuries*. Prešov: Prešovská univerzita.

Holmes, J. 2008. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. London: Longman/Pearson.

Hughes, A, Trudgill, P. and Watt, D. 1979. *English Accents and Dialects*. London: Hodder Arnold.

Jenkins, J. 2009. *World Englishes. A resource book for students*. London and New York: Routledge.

Baugh, A. & Cable, T. 2002. *A History of the English Language*. 5th ed. London: Routledge.

Crystal, D. 2003. *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: CUP. (Part I: The History of English, pp. 5–115)

Ferenčík, M. 2013. *English Grammar in Discourse. Part 1*. Prešov: FF PU.

Ferenčík, M. 2013. *English Grammar in Discourse. Part 2*. Prešov: FF PU.

Ferenčík, M. 2016. *English Stylistics as Discourse Analysis*. Prešov: FF PU.

Holmes, J. S. 1988/2004. 'The name and nature of translation studies' in L. Venuti (ed.) (2004). *The Translation Studies Reader*, 2nd ed., pp. 180–92.

McIntyre, D. 2009. *History of English. A Resource Book For Students*. London: Routledge.

Mey, J. 1993. *Pragmatics*. Blackwell.

Munday, J. 2016. *Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications*. 4th rev. ed. Routledge:

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- Peccei, J.S. 1999. *Pragmatics*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Popovič, A. 1975. *Teória umeleckého prekladu*. Bratislava: Tatran.
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- Pyles, T. & Algeo, J. 2004. *The Origins and the Development of the English Language*. 5th ed. London: Wadsworth.
- Schmitt, N. & Marsden, R. 2006. *Why is English like that? Historical Answers to Hard ELT Questions*. The University of Michigan Press.
- Snell-Hornby, M. 2006. *The Turns of Translation Studies*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins, Chapter 1.
- Tárnyiková, L. 2000. Pragmatics. In P. Štekauer (ed.) *Rudiments of English Linguistics*. Prešov: Slovacontact.
- Venuti, L. (ed.). 2004. *The Translation Studies Reader*. 2nd ed., pp. 138–43.
- Wright, C. 2016. *Literary Translation*. London and New York: Routledge.

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