

# **Inštitút anglistiky a amerikanistiky FF PU v Prešove**

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

## **English language, linguistics, translation and interpreting**

### **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 and interpreting taking into account selected streams of enquiry in interdisciplinary linguistics and other disciplines.

### **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 and flouting, violation, opting out and infringing of the maxims
- Interpersonal pragmatics: *Leech's* politeness maxims; *Brown's and Levinson's* negative and positive face, negative and positive politeness
- Pragmatics and culture: Intercultural pragmatics, cross-cultural Pragmatics, interlanguage pragmatics

### **15. Translation studies – specialised translation**

- Core questions and challenges in specialised (non-literary) translation
- The positioning of specialised translation and text continuum
- Nord's model of extra- and intratextual factors
- Equivalence vs. skopos theory in professional translation practice

### **16. Translation studies – resources, terminology and the translator's digital toolkit**

- Terminology databases and management, resources, corpora and parallel texts in translation practice
- CAT tools, machine translation and human translation – their essence and comparison

### **17. Translation studies – CAT tools, machine translation and post-editing**

- Main principles of CAT tools (translation memory, termbase, alignment, segment)
- Machine translation – stages of development, functioning and current limitations
- Advantages and drawbacks of CAT tools vs. (raw) machine translation
- Productivity, quality assessment and responsibility in technology-enhanced translation
- Light vs. full post-editing

### **18. Translation Studies – localisation and skopos approach in specialised translation**

- The role of localisation in translation and its relation to skopos theory

- Areas of localisation in translation: how does localisation happen and what can be localised? Success and failure in localisation.
- Skopos theory and specialised translation: reasons for emergence, essence, Reiss and Vermeer's skopos rules, Nord's contribution, criticism of the skopos theory.

### **19. Translation studies – professionalism, ethics and expanding translator roles**

- From translation studies to *translator* studies
- The impact of digitalisation on translator competences and responsibilities – the augmented translator
- Editing, revision, proofreading and quality assurance in specialised translation
- Professional vs. non-professional translation (fansubbing and crowd-sourcing)
- Translator's ethics in the contemporary language industry (confidentiality, accuracy, AI use etc. )

### **20. Translation studies – literary translation**

- Popovič's thinking on literary translation and his credits
- Shifts and changes of expression in literary translation
- Catford's concept of translation shift

### **21. Translation studies – literary translation**

- Fidelity vs. fluency
- Stylistics of literary translation
- Prose and drama translation. Translation of literature for children and young adults

### **22. Translation studies – translation methods, procedures and solutions**

- Newmark's concept
- Pym's concept of translation solutions
- Time, space and tensions in literary translation – archaisation, modernisation, domestication and foreignisation including their pros and cons

### **23. Interpreting studies – memory and speech structures in consecutive interpreting (CI)**

- chunking and prior extralinguistic knowledge
- Memory prompts: logical, narrative, structural, visual
- Mind maps, mini-summaries, section diagrams
- Notes as analytical tools

### **24. Interpreting studies – delivery skills in interpreting and professional standards**

- Voice, clarity, pace, intonation, coherence.
- Non-verbal communication (posture, rules for hands and feet)
- Principles of charging, components of the fee, professional conduct

### **25. Interpreting studies – community interpreting and technology-supported and distance interpreting**

- Modes and settings
- Ground rules, role, duties, and ethics
- Certified interpreters
- Machine Interpreting and CAI tools

## 26. Interpreting studies – note-taking and fine-tuning

- abbreviation strategies (verbs, suffixes)
- The recall line
- Use of the margin. Implicit links
- Pro-forms and improvised symbols
- The use of the slash and punctuation marks
- Noting sooner or later. Principles of delayed notation

## 27. Interpreting studies – simultaneous interpreting (SI)

- Acoustic difficulties of SI and chuchotage.
- Rules for rendering successful SI. The golden rules of SI.
- Techniques of SI. The Salami Technique. Simplification. Generalization. Omission
- Reformulation in SI. Summarizing and anticipation
- When a speaker makes a mistake

## 28. Interpreting studies – retour & relay

- Metaphors and Sayings. Using pat phrases. Intonation. Stress. Numbers
- Stress management in simultaneous interpreting

### Recommended literature:

- Baugh, A. & Cable, T. 2002. *A History of the English Language*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Routledge.
- Bednárová-Gibová, K. 2014. *The English Language through the Prism of the Centuries*. Prešov: Prešovská univerzita.
- Bednárová-Gibová, K., Gavurová M. and J. Gresty. 2024. *A Propaedeutics of Translation Studies*. Prešov: Vydavateľstvo Prešovskej univerzity.
- Crystal, D. 2003. *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge: CUP. (Part I: The History of English, pp. 5–115)
- Ferenčík, M. 2016. *English Stylistics as Discourse Analysis*. Prešov: FF PU.
- Ferenčík, M., Nováková, Z. 2022. *English Grammar in Discourse. A Course in Systemic-Functional Grammar*. Prešov: Vydavateľstvo PU.
- Ferenčík, M. 2025. *English Pragmatics. An Introductory Course*. Prešov: Vydavateľstvo PU.
- Gillies, A. 2019. *Consecutive Interpreting. A Short Course. Translation Practices Explained*. London: Routledge.
- Gillies, A. 2010. *Note-Taking for Consecutive Interpreting: A Short Course*. London: Routledge (or newer edition).
- 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.
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- Jones, R. 2014. *Conference Interpreting Explained*. Manchester: St. Jerome.
- McIntyre, D. 2009. *History of English. A Resource Book For Students*. London: Routledge.
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- Newmark, P. 1998. *Approaches to Translation*. New York: Prentice Hall.
- Peccei, J.S. 1999. *Pragmatics*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Popovič, A. 1975. *Teória umeleckého prekladu*. Bratislava: Tatran.

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- 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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 138–43.
- Wright, C. 2016. *Literary Translation*. London and New York: Routledge.

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