

Introduction to linguistics

Lecturers: Adriana Belletti, Valentina Bianchi, Luigi Rizzi

H: 10

Credits: 2

Semester: I

Compulsory course: B

Description

This module will introduce some basic notions of linguistic analysis by discussing the phenomenon of wh-questions (e.g. *What did you see?*). In the first part, Adriana Belletti will introduce the notions of phrase structure and of long-distance relations, and will discuss the phenomenon of focus as related to question-answer congruence. In the second part, Valentina Bianchi will discuss the interpretive aspects of wh-questions, introducing the basic ingredients of possible world semantics and the notion of bi-dimensional interpretation. In the third part, Luigi Rizzi will tackle some locality constraints in long-distance relations and will discuss experimental evidence about them. The last hour of the course will be devoted to a general discussion involving the audience.

Suggested readings

Adger, D. 2014 Syntax. Available from:

<http://wires.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WiresArticle/wisId-WCS1332.html>

Baker, M. 2001. *The Atoms of Language*. Basic Books.

Rizzi, L. & G. Cinque .2016. "Functional Categories and Syntactic Theory", in *The Annual Review of Linguistics*, 139-163. Available from:

<http://lear.unive.it/jspui/bitstream/11707/5564/1/RizziCinqueAnnualRevLing.pdf>

Evaluation

The evaluation will be based on class participation.

Calendar

November 22nd, 2018 - 15-18

November 23rd, 2018 - 10-13, 14-17

November 23rd, 2018 General discussion 17-18

Classroom 1-16