

Course Specification for Historical and Comparative Linguistics

College	Zulfi College of Education		
Department	English Language Department		
Course Name:	Historical and Comparative Linguistics	Course Code	ENGL 422
Level	9	Credit Hours	3 hrs.
Course Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grasp the key ideas, concepts, issues, scope, theories and approaches of Historical and Comparative Linguistics. 2. Know the classification of the major language families and their role in understanding language. 3. Link language history with its present situation. 4. Realize and interpret the phenomenon of language Change and see its link with socio-cultural change. 5. Become aware of the phenomenon of Language Attrition/Loss and the Endangered Languages. 6. Compare and contrast English and Arabic (in terms of history, phonology, morphology, syntax, pragmatics and discourse) and discuss the implications of these differences for Arabic-speaking EFL learners. 7. Explain and discuss particular topics in Historical and Comparative Linguistics such as: Borrowing, Cognates, Lexicostatistics, Grammaticalisation, Reanalysis, etc. 8. Discuss the relationship between Contrastive Analysis and Comparative Linguistics. 9. Discuss the relationship between Comparative Linguistics and Linguistic Typology and Linguistic Contact. 10. Conduct a research project in the context of Historical and Comparative Linguistics 11. 		
Course Content	<p>Course Orientation Defining Historical and Comparative Linguistics, showing topics and scope.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diachronic vs. Synchronic Study- 		
	<p>Unit 1: Historical Linguistics Key Concepts in Historical Linguistics (definitions, concepts, scope, methodology, etc.).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Language Families (concept, classifications, criticism, etc.). 		
	<p>Language Change (definition, causes, types and levels of change and processes of change). Types and Levels: Phonological, Syntactic, Semantic, Pragmatic and Discourse Changes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Great Vowel Shift and Grimm's Law 		
	<p>Borrowing: (causes, types, processes and dynamics) -Grammaticalisation, Reanalysis, etc.</p>		

	Unit 2: Comparative linguistics Key Concepts in Comparative Linguistics (definitions, concepts, scope, history and development in the 19th century, approaches, methodology, etc.). Cognates and Lexicostatistics- -Reconstruction
	Comparative Linguistics and other Related Domains Contrastive Analysis Language or Linguistic Typology Language Contact (Contact Linguistics)
	A Comparison and Contrast between Arabic and English (History, Morphology, Phonology, Syntax, Pragmatics and Discourse). 4. Implications of the Differences (e.g. for language learning, for intercultural communication, etc.).
	5. Comparative Dialectology (comparing and contrasting some English/Arabic Dialects).
	Project Presentation and Discussion 6.)students may be divided into group and required to conduct a term project on any topic in Historical and Comparative Linguistics; including a presentation and report(
Required Textbook	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anttila, Raimo (1989). Historical and Comparative Linguistics. John Benjamin's Publishing Company 2. Hock, Hans Henrich, and Brian D. Joseph. (2009). Language history, Language Change, and Language Relationship: An Introduction to Historical and Comparative Linguistics. Mouton de Gruyter (2nd edition. 3. Campbell, Lyle. (2013). Historical Linguistics: An Introduction(3rd edition). Boston: MIT Press. 4. Schendle, Herbert. (2001). Historical Linguistics. Oxford: Oxford University Press 5. Web-based materials collated from various sources

