

LING1113 – Psykolingvistikk og sosiolingvistikk.

Obligatorisk kvalifiseringsoppgave vårsemestret 2022.

Oppgaven publisert tirsdag 15. mars. Du skal besvare ENTEN sosiolingvistikk-delen ELLER psykolingvistikk-delen. Psykolingvistikk kan besvares på norsk eller engelsk, sosiolingvistikk skal besvares på engelsk. Besvarelsen din må være lastet opp i Canvas senest kl. 12:00 fredag 25. mars. Besvarelsen skal være minst 5, maks. 7 A4-sider tekst (linjeavstand halvannen, font 12 p). Forsiden kommer i tillegg.

Regler for denne skriftlige kvalifiseringsoppgaven:

- 1. Besvarelsen skal være et individuelt arbeid. Det er ikke anledning til gruppearbeid eller hjelp fra andre.*
- 2. Besvarelsen må være levert innen utløpet av fristen. Ved sykdom eller andre spesielle forhold kan det gis utsettelse, men da må dette tas opp med studiekonsulenten eller faglæreren FØR fristen går ut.*
- 3. Vurderingsformen er «Godkjent/Ikke godkjent». Hvis en besvarelse ikke blir godkjent, vurderer faglærer om det er grunnlag for at studenten kan få besvare en ny oppgave, med tre dagers innleveringsfrist.*

LING1113 - Psycholinguistics and sociolinguistics.

Mandatory qualification assignment spring semester 2022.

This assignment published on Tuesday 15 March. You must answer EITHER the sociolinguistics option OR the psycholinguistics option. Psycholinguistics can be answered in Norwegian or English; sociolinguistics must be answered in English. Your answer must be uploaded to Canvas no later than 12:00 Friday 25 March. The answer must be at least 5 and at most 7 A4 pages of text (line spacing one and a half, font 12 pt), not including the front page.

Rules for this written qualification assignment:

- 1. The answer must be an individual work. There is no opportunity for group work or help from others.*
- 2. The answer must be submitted by the end of the deadline. In the event of illness or other special circumstances, a postponement may be granted, but then this must be discussed with the study consultant or the subject teacher IN ADVANCE of the deadline.*
- 3. The assessment format is “Approved/Not approved” (a.k.a. “Pass/Fail”). If an answer is not approved, the teacher assesses whether there is a basis for the student to answer a new assignment, with a three-day submission deadline.*

SOCIOLINGUISTICS

The sociolinguistics option has two parts. You must complete both.

1. (3–4 pages.) Write an essay discussing the following statement: **“There is no such thing as free variation”**. In your answer you should say what linguists mean by 'free variation', and consider arguments both for and against the statement (supported by appropriate examples). There will be more to say in favour of the statement, but try to also think about any cases which might still be thought of as genuine free variation.
2. (2–3 pages.) Find an example from popular media or the Internet (e.g. a newspaper article, segment of a TV show, tweet, webpage, etc.), in any language with which you are familiar, that discusses some example of linguistic variation or change (i.e. is an instance of metalinguistic commentary). **Your task is to explain the structure of the variation or change under discussion, and the social significance attributed to it.**
 - a) Start by identifying the linguistic variable(s) under discussion, and give all the possible variants. Use appropriate linguistic terminology to be as precise as possible.
 - i. Bear in mind that a variable need not be phonological, but can also be morphological, syntactic, or something else entirely. However, don't choose something which is purely orthographic.
 - ii. You may have to give a brief description of some part of the language's syntax/phonology/... to explain how this variation fits in. (E.g. for phonological variation, does one of the variants overlap with a different phoneme, suggesting the possibility of a merger/chain shift?)
 - b) What does the author claim is the social meaning of this variation/change? Do you agree? Why/why not? What other factors might be motivating their opinion beyond those which they mention? In your answers to these questions, try to be as precise and explicit as possible.
 - c) Please include a link to the piece itself, or a transcription/screenshot/some other means for me to see/hear it.

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

Psykolingvistikk-oppgaven handler om stoff fra kap. 4 i læreboka til Harley:

I starten av dette kapitlet blir rasjonalisme og empirisme (empirisisme) satt opp mot hverandre som grunnlag for grunnleggende forskjellige tilnæringsmåter til studiet av menneskets språklige evner og barns språktilegnelse. Du skal skrive et essay på 5-7 sider som forklarer noen argumenter for rasjonalisme (Chomsky) og noen innvendinger fra empirister, basert på ting du kan finne i kapittel 4. Kapitlet er på nesten femti sider, så du skal IKKE prøve å summere det i sin helhet. Men prøv å

skrive noe om alle disse stikkordene: 'poverty of the stimulus', 'language acquisition device', parametre, språklige universalier, medfødtet (innateness), semantisk språkutvikling, syntaktisk språkutvikling. Og husk at du skal fremstille dette med dine egne ord.

In English: The psycholinguistics option will take you back to chapter 4 in Harley's textbook. At the beginning of this chapter, rationalism and empiricism are contrasted with each other as a basis for fundamentally different approaches to the study of human linguistic abilities and children's language acquisition. You should write an essay of 5-7 pages that explains some arguments for rationalism (Chomsky) and some objections from empiricists, based on things you can find in Chapter 4. The chapter is almost fifty pages, so you should NOT try to sum it up in its entirety. But try to write something about all these key words: 'poverty of the stimulus', 'language acquisition device', parameters, linguistic universals, innateness, semantic language development, syntactic language development. And remember that you must present this in your own words.