

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Research field, branch, code	Faculty	Department, Institute
Critical sociolinguistics: language ideologies between culture and politics	Philology, Linguistics, H004	Philology	Institute for the Languages and Cultures of the Baltic

Study cycle	3 rd (doctoral)
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Mode of delivery	ECTS credits	Type of the course unit	Language of instruction
Contact (lectures, workshops, tutorials)	8		Lithuanian/English
Individual or in a group			

Annotation of the course content

This course provides students with a solid grounding in the basics of critical linguistics and equips them with conceptual tools for critical reflection on the supposed neutrality of linguistic ideologies and of language-related cultural and political discourses, with a particular focus on the Baltic Sea region. Depending on their knowledge or interests, students will explore how social and cultural aspects of language in use intertwine with local and global politics. The course develops the ability to distinguish between ideological vs. scientific approaches to language variation, linguistic diversity, and multilingualism; to consider how language relates to individual and group identities; and to identify beliefs that link language to social hierarchies and power.

Sub-topics (selected according to student interest):

- Theories of language planning and policy (including educational policies, teachers' attitudes, and linguistic rights),
- Language in the public sphere and democratic governance,
- Language and globalisation,
- Linguistic ideologies: standard language ideology, prescriptivism, and purism,
- Ideologies of nationalism, fascism, racism, gender and language.

Students will be introduced to qualitative data analysis software (such as NVivo) and will have the opportunity engage in applied tasks designed to test their theoretical knowledge and foster democratic participation, such as preparing policy recommendations on a selected issue or producing a science dissemination publication.

Preliminary readings (for selection according to your interests; can be supplemented if necessary)

Bauman, Richard and Charles Briggs. 2003. *Voices of Modernity: Language ideologies and the politics of inequality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 2011. *Language and Symbolic Power*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.

Blommaert, Jan. 2010. *The sociolinguistics of Globalization*. Cambridge University Press.

- Cameron, Deborah. 1995. *Verbal Hygiene*. London, New York: Routledge.
- Coupland, Nik & Tore Kristiansen (red.). 2011. *Standard Languages and Language Standards in a Changing Europe*. Oslo: Novus Press.
- Fairclough, Norman. 2015. *Language and Power*. 3rd Edition, London: Routledge.
- Flowerdew, John & John E. Richardson (red.). 2017. *The Routledge Handbook of Critical Discourse Studies*. London and New York: Taylor & Francis.
- Gal, S. 2012. Language, gender, and power: An anthropological review. In K. Hall & M. Bucholtz (Eds.) *Gender articulated* (pp. 169-182). Routledge.
- Geeraerts, Dirk. 2003. Cultural models of linguistic standardization. In R. Dirven, R. Frank & M. Pütz (Eds.), *Cognitive Models in Language and Thought. Ideology, Metaphors and Meanings* (pp. 25-68). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Gorham, M. S. 2014. Glasnost unleashed: Language ideologies in the Gorbachev revolution. In *After Newspeak* (pp. 48-74). Cornell university Press.
- Hutton, C. 2012. *Linguistics and the Third Reich: Mother-tongue fascism, race and the science of language*. Routledge.
- Makoni, Sifree & Alistair Pennycook. 2005. Disinventing and (re)constituting languages. *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies: An International Journal*, 2(3), 137-156.
- Milroy, James. 2001. Language ideologies and the consequences of standardization. *Journal of sociolinguistics*, 5(4), 530-555.
- Maegaard M., F. Gregersen, P. Quist & J. N. Joergensen (eds.) 2009. *Language attitudes, standardization and language change*. Oslo: Novus forlag.
- Ricento, T. (ed.). 2005. *An introduction to language policy: Theory and method*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Schieffelin, B. B., Woolard, K. A., & Kroskrity, P. V. (eds.). 1998. *Language ideologies: Practice and theory* (Vol. 16). Oxford University Press.
- Šepetys, Nerijus & Loreta Vaicekauskienė (red.) 2016. *Lietuvių kalbos ideologija: norminimo idėjų ir galios istorija*. Vilnius: Naujasis Židinys – Aidai.
- van Ostade, Ingrid Tieken-Boon & Carol Percy (eds.). 2017. *Prescription and Tradition in Language. Establishing Standards across Time and Space*. Bristol, Buffalo, Toronto: Multilingual Matters.
- Vukotić, Vuk. 2014. Conflicting notions of language in metalinguistic discourses in Lithuania, Norway and Serbia, *Taikomoji kalbotyra* 5, 1-32.

Lecturer	Main works in the research field published during the last five years
prof. dr. Loreta Vaicekauskienė doc. dr. Vuk Vukotić	Vaicekauskienė, Loreta. (2023). The sociolinguistic dynamics of Russian and English in post-1990 Lithuania. <i>World Englishes</i> 42(4), 749–767.
	Vaicekauskienė, Loreta, Vuk Vukotić, Ramunė Čičirkaitė, Laima Nevinskaitė. (2022). <i>Lietuvių kalba kaip klaida. Raštingumo samprata ir kalbos taisyklės mokykloje</i> . (Specialusis <i>Taikomoji kalbotyra</i> numeris, Nr. 18), www.taikomojikalbotyra.lt
	Vaicekauskienė, Loreta. (2020). Maintaining power through language correction: a case of L1 education in post-Soviet Lithuania. In Chapman, Don & Rawlins, Jacob D. (eds.). <i>Language Prescription: Values, Ideologies and Identity</i> . Multilingual Matters, 145–170.
	Maxwell, Alexander, Vuk Vukotić & Susie Klaver. (2025). Rhetorical Strategies and the Language/Dialect Dichotomy: Linguists Justifying the Classification of Central South Slavic. <i>Comparative Southeast European Studies</i> 73 (1), 36-58. [link]

	Vukotić, Vuk. (2024). Are languages and dialects inventions of nationalism? On the problem of totalising metalanguage. <i>Nations and Nationalism</i> 30 (4), 565-581.
	Vukotić, Vuk. (2022). On the Discursive Construction of Dialectal Varieties: The Case of Central South Slavic ‘Supradialects’. <i>Scando-Slavica</i> 68 (1), 175-191.
Approved by decision of Doctoral Committee (date, record No) November 7, 2025. Minutes of meeting No. (7.17 E) 15600-KT-637	
Chair of Doctoral Committee Prof. Dr Daiva Aliūkaitė	