

APPLIED LINGUISTICS: LANGUAGE TEACHING AND LEARNING

1. First language acquisition (comparing and contrasting it with second language acquisition, critical period hypothesis, dominant theories – behaviorism, nativism, interactionism).
2. Theories of second language acquisition (behaviorism, Universal Grammar approaches, interlanguage theory, Krashen's Monitor Model, Schumann's Acculturation/Pidginization Theory, interaction and output hypotheses, skill learning theories, Learnability/Teachability Hypothesis, etc.).
3. Errors in language learning (Contrastive Analysis vs. Error Analysis, types and sources of errors, etc.).
4. Options in error correction
5. Individual differences: Social factors (attitudes, beliefs, ethnic identity, gender, etc.)
6. Individual differences: Cognitive factors (age, intelligence, aptitude, field dependence and independence, tolerance of ambiguity, left- and right- brain functioning, reflectivity and impulsivity, etc.)
7. Individual differences: Affective factors (motivation, risk-taking, inhibition, self-esteem, anxiety, empathy, etc.)
8. Learners with special educational needs: Characteristics and teaching recommendations
9. Age-appropriate pedagogy: Characteristics and teaching recommendations for different age groups
10. Contexts of language instruction (foreign vs. second language contexts, examples of educational contexts, etc.).
11. Teacher characteristics (beliefs, roles performed in the classroom, effective vs. reflective teaching, teacher development and expectations).
12. Aspects of classroom interaction (differences between naturalistic and pedagogic discourse, types of classroom interaction and their characteristics, turn-taking, IRF exchange, teacher talk, different modes of classroom organization – whole-class teaching, individual work, pair and group work, question types, use of the mother tongue, communication strategies, error correction, aspects of classroom dynamics, classroom discipline, etc.)
13. Teaching different language skills (speaking, listening, writing and reading)
14. Teaching different language subsystems (pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar and pragmatics)
15. Syllabus design and lesson planning (types of syllabuses and their value, aspects of lesson planning, etc.)
16. Language testing (washback, types of tests, basic dichotomies in language testing: formal-informal, direct-indirect, etc., changing paradigms in language testing, characteristics of a good test, issues in test construction and administration, etc.)
17. Coursebooks, materials, educational equipment and technology (coursebook assessment vs. evaluation, advantages and disadvantages of coursebooks, options in coursebook use, authentic vs. inauthentic materials, classroom aids – pictures, charts, realia, etc., educational technology – OHP, video, computers, etc.)
18. Foreign language methodology: tradition and contemporary trends
19. Language learning strategies
20. Language learner autonomy

LINGUISTICS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. The organs and mechanics of speech (including phonation)
2. English consonants and vowels (including their articulation and classification)
3. English stress, rhythm and intonation (including their basic patterns and functions)
4. British versus American pronunciation
5. Phonemic transcription (including its uses in language learning and teaching)
6. Parts of speech in English and their grammatical categories
7. Types of phrases in English and their properties
8. Verbal complementation in English
9. English compound and complex sentences
10. Properties of language
11. Morphemes and word formation processes
12. Semantics and meaning in language
13. Pragmatics and Grice maxims
14. The Sapir and Whorf hypothesis
15. The origins of irregular plural forms in Old English
16. The origins of Present Day English modal verbs
17. Lexical borrowings in Old and Middle English
18. Language universals and linguistic typology
19. The comparison of Polish and English phonology, morphology and syntax
20. Language transfer and linguistic borrowing

BRITISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE

1. Beginnings of American literature
2. American Romanticism
3. Transcendentalism in theory and practice
4. Realism and its representatives, American regional writers
5. American postmodernism: Experimental prose
6. Old English literature: Courtly and religious poetry, Middle English literature: The romance (characteristic motifs, courtly love, chivalry), the beginnings of the English theatre (the origins, types of plays, characteristic motifs), medieval poetry
7. Renaissance poetry, prose and drama; drama and poetry of William Shakespeare (the sonnet cycle, dramatic genres, characteristic elements and dramatic devices, psychological realism)
8. The literature of the Enlightenment, the beginnings of the novel (formal realism, types of narration)
9. The development of the gothic fiction (the origins, development, characteristic elements)
10. English romantic poetry and fiction (sources of poetic inspiration, poets' attitude to nature, differences between 18th and 19th century poetry)
11. Types of 18th century and 19th century poetry and novels
12. Modernist experimental fiction (narrative experiments and trends) and poetry (movements, features, the indictment of modern civilization)
13. Postmodernism in British literature (narrative experiments, historical metafiction, intertextuality)

14. Norman invasion of the British Isles
15. Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate, Glorious Revolution and its significance for the British
16. Britain and colonization over centuries
17. Main events of American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence
18. Civil War and abolition of slavery
19. British/American political system: the legislative, judiciary and executive branches
20. Current political situation in the USA and GB