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Collecting data from human participants

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Learning content unit block basic information

Workload: 6 ECTS

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Thematically, the unit block is structured in four parts:

1. General
2. Morphophonology and morphosyntax
3. Second language acquisition (SLA)
4. Sociolinguistics

+ Two student projects (3 ECTS)

Topics covered (subunits)

GENERAL (Part 1)

- Relevant terms and distinctions
- Ethics in linguistic research with human participants
- Population sampling in linguistic research

MORPHOPHONOLOGY AND MORPHOSYNTAX (Part 2)

- Judgement data
- Judgement tasks
- Creating an experiment/survey
- Data elicitation

Topics covered (subunits)

SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION (Part 3)

- Comprehension tasks in SLA
- Elicited production tasks in SLA
- Acceptability judgement tasks in SLA

SOCOLINGUISTICS (Part 4)

- Ethnographic fieldwork in sociolinguistics
- The sociolinguistic interview
- Surveys and questionnaires in sociolinguistic research

Student projects

- “Irregular” phonological alternations
- Second language acquisition of English morphosyntax

General subunit structure

Preparatory reading assignment or a warm-up activity

PPT presentation with notes for teachers accompanied by handouts for students

Optional reading assignment

Practical assignment

Quizz

Example of a student project

Title of the project	Second language acquisition of English morphosyntax: An experimental study
Project abstract (one paragraph describing the scholarly goal of the project)	The goal of this project is to explore the second language (L2) acquisition of one aspect of English morphosyntax experimentally. The students choose a morphosyntactic phenomenon in English (e.g. articles, reflexive pronouns, an argument-structure alternation, relative clauses) and a factor (or factors) that might affect the acquisition of this phenomenon in the L2 (e.g. input frequency, the learners' native language, age of first exposure, motivation, level of foreign language anxiety, language aptitude). They design and implement a small-scale experimental study with L2 learners and native speakers as participants to explore the effects of this factor/these factors on the process and/or outcome of acquiring this phenomenon in the L2 and produce a research report in the end.
Deliverable format for research reporting	A research report
Workload (in ECTS)	3 ECTS

Example of a student project

Level	BA/MA
Time commitment (required from the students)	75 hours
Time commitment (required from the teacher)	ca. 10 hours
Feedback points	<p>Point 1: In-class feedback on Presentation 1: Ideally, at this point, the research problem has been identified, the research questions and/or hypotheses have been formulated, the study has been designed and the data collection instruments have been created.</p> <p>Point 2: In-class feedback on Presentation 2: Ideally, at this point, the data have been collected, analysed and interpreted, and conclusions have been drawn.</p> <p>Point 3: Research report evaluation</p>
Prerequisites	Familiarity with basic concepts, theoretical issues and empirical findings in second language acquisition (SLA)