

LinC Summer School and Workshop 2016 – **Introductory Course**

The Introductory Course in SFL will introduce participants to the basics of SFL with a particular focus on clausal analysis. There will be sessions on each of the three metafunctions - the experiential, the interpersonal and the textual - as well as sessions discussing how the metafunctions combine to make multi-stranded meaning and on potential applications of the approach. The programme is set up to cover each topic in a lecture format followed by a workshop dedicated to each topic. This format provides the opportunity to gain hands-on practical experience in analysing grammar in a systemic functional linguistic tradition. The programme also includes an introduction to the UAM CorpusTool for those who are interested in learning to use it.

This course will be delivered by **Lise Fontaine, Tom Bartlett and Gerard O’Grady**

Outline

- Introduction to SFL
- Experiential Meaning
- Experiential Meaning workshop
- Noun group and other units and phrases
- Noun group workshop
- Interpersonal Meaning
- Workshop on Interpersonal Meaning
- Textual and information Meaning
- Workshop on Textual and information Meaning
- Introduction to the UAM CorpusTool
- Summary Session: bringing the 3 strands together
- Applying SFL Workshop: applications

Descriptions for the introductory course

Opening Lecture: Introduction to SFL

The introductory course will begin with an introductory lecture, which provides an overview of Systemic Functional Linguistics. We will introduce the three main metafunctions and the general principles of SFL.

Lecture: Experiential meaning

In this session we will examine how experiential content is construed through the grammar of processes, participants and circumstances. Particular emphasis will be placed on distinguishing process types according to their grammatical behaviour and we will look at material, relational, verbal and mental processes and discuss the concept of borderline categories with reference to difficult cases.

Workshop on Experiential meaning

We will analyse a text to see how different participants are categorised and how the text develops experiential themes in relation to the genre it represents.

Lecture: The noun group and other units and phrases

This is an introduction to the building blocks of the clause, focussing on words and the way in which they pattern and form larger units, including, noun groups, verb groups, prepositional phrases, etc.

Workshop on the noun group

The aim of this workshop is to develop the skills and strategies needed for analysing clause-internal grammatical structures. We will focus on the structures of the various units most commonly found within the clause and how to identify and analyse them.

Lecture: Interpersonal meaning

This lecture will provide a more detailed look at the Interpersonal metafunction, where we will consider the meanings that relate most directly to the speaker and addressee in interaction. This will include a look at personal meaning (modality) and interactional meaning (mood) within an SFL framework. This introduction to interpersonal meaning will provide a good basis for the follow-on workshop where you will get the chance to work with the main concepts and begin to focus on lexicogrammatical analysis.

Workshop on Interpersonal meaning

This workshop concentrates on identifying units at clause level and interpreting these units in functional terms with respect to interpersonal meanings.

Lecture: Textual and information meaning

In this session we will examine the twin systems of Theme and Information focusing especially on Theme/Rheme Given/New and the relationship between the two. We will then look at ways in which Theme can be explored in text, establishing key concepts such as Fries' method of development, Martin's scaffolding and hyper-Theme, and Matthiessen's points of logogenetic growth. We will also consider the issues around applying the notions of Given/New (which are based on intonation) to written text.

Workshop on textual and information meaning

We will analyse one or more texts to see how Theme and New were used to organise the text and guide the reader towards salient points of interest.

Introduction to the UAM CorpusTool

This workshop offers an introduction to the UAM CorpusTool and will be held in our IT training room.

Summary Session: the full analysis

This session will provide a summary of the various types of meaning covered in the course and give the opportunity to work with a complete text for analysis. The aim here is to clarify issues which may have arisen during the week.

Workshop: Applying SFL

This final introductory session will demonstrate how SFL can be used in application.

Recommended Reading List - Introductory textbooks

- Bloor, T. & Bloor, M. 2004. *The Functional Analysis of English*. London: Arnold
- Eggs, S. 2004. *An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics*. London: Frances Pinter.
- Fontaine, L. 2013. *Analyzing English Grammar: A systemic-functional introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Thompson, G. 2004. *Introducing Functional Grammar*. London: Arnold