Subject Code	CBS1900
Subject Title	Introduction to Language
Credit Value	3
Level	1
Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil
Objectives	What is special about human language? Is it possible to teach animals to use a language? How many different types of writing systems are there in world languages? How does language influence our thoughts and the way our society works? These are some of the key issues that will be addressed in this subject. The overall goal is to help students understand the nature of human language and its relationship with culture and society. Students will also learn about scientific approaches of analysing language and fundamental areas of linguistics. The subject will be taught with real-life examples, language puzzles and various types of multimedia materials, and is suitable for anyone who is interested in language. Content of this subject will not only facilitate students' further study of languages and language-related issues, but also help develop the skills of logic thinking and deduction, which are both essential for other areas of study.
Intended Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to: **Category A: Professional/academic knowledge and skills** a) appreciate the scientific aim of describing and understanding language; b) identify and propose preliminary solutions to language problems in Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua) and English as well as in other languages, as and where appropriate, in a scientific manner; c) make intelligent and informed judgments concerning aspects of language; d) communicate effectively in speech and writing about linguistic issues; e) develop the ability to discuss varieties of language without prejudice; f) understand of how language is an important component of human society;

	Category B: Attributes for all-roundedness g) have a sufficiently deep understanding of linguistics to apply this, where desirable, to other areas of study or to employment; h) apply logic thinking and deduction to problem solving and analysing in general.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	**1. Introduction** 　a. What is language? 　b. Animal communication vs. human language 　c. Does language dictate your thoughts? **2. Different Aspects of Languages** 　a. The sounds of language 　b. The sound patterns of language 　c. Word structure 　d. Sentence patterns 　e. Meanings of words and sentences **3. Language in Society** 　a. Language contact and linguistic diversity 　b. Language acquisition 　c. Dialect and accent 　d. Register, slang and taboo 　e. Life and death of language 　f. Modern writing systems
Teaching/Learning Methodology	In addition to face-to-face lectures and small group tutorials, online discussions (via Blackboard) and other computer-assisted teaching methods will also be used, with the help of multimedia (audio and video) teaching materials.

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed							
			a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h
	1. Participating in linguistic experiments	3%	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
	2. Tests	70%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3. Group project	27%	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Total	100%								

Two tests will be administered during the semester, which will aim to test the students' mastery of basic linguistic knowledge and problem solving skills. Students are also required to participate in one or two linguistic experiments and complete a group project on a specific topic in language research, in order to further understand the subject knowledge and develop their analytic skills.

Student Study Effort Expected	Class contact:	
	▪ Lectures	26 Hrs.
	▪ Seminars	13 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Reading and on-line study	54 Hrs.
	▪ Preparing for tests	16 Hrs.
	▪ Group project	10 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	119 Hrs.

Reading List and References	Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. and Hyams N. (2013). *An Introduction to Language* (10th ed.).　Cengage Learning.

[Syllabus prepared by Prof. SHI Dingxu and revised by Dr. YAO Yao]