

Detailed information on the examination tasks in Fundamental Linguistic Methods

The examination in this course consists of four parts. You have to fulfill all of them to receive the course credits.

You cannot expect to get comments either from the teacher or from the class mates if you do not hand in your assignments on time. If you – for some reason – are unable to do so, please let other people know.

Also, respect the space limit. You cannot expect either teacher or class mates to read more pages than what is allowed for the task.

Meeting time and space limits are part of the tasks!

1. Research task in groups

This task consist of a small methodological research task that is carried out in group. Each group should work with one of the following methods: language elicitation, questionnaire, participating observation or interview. The teacher will assign the groups and methods.

It is part of the task

- to **find literature and read up on the method** (on at least two books/articles/chapters that use the method),
- to **formulate a research question/hypothesis** that can be answered with the method,
- to **carry out a small investigation** using the method,
- to **present the results** to the class, orally **and** with a powerpoint/pdf
- to include a **reflection** about the process: what was difficult with the method? What was the solution? What would you change in the future?

Wed Sep 25: The group will upload a one-page outline of the planned investigation. The draft should include a research question/hypothesis that will be tested with the method, and a short description of the study, including choice of informants, and examples of linguistic elicitation (if relevant). Also, indicate if any choice is problematic (e.g. finding informants, possible difficulties with questions etc.). Also, suggest 4-5 relevant publications (you don't have to have read them yet; just what you've found from the literature search). The teacher will give a short written feedback on the draft.

Mon Oct 28 (and, if needed, Mon Nov 4): The group reports on the investigation to the whole class, orally with a powerpoint presentation/equivalent. 15 minutes.

In combination with the oral report, the group should hand in one "Group evaluation"-sheet for every group meeting (evaluation sheets are provided on the course platform).

Purpose: This part of the examination will help you fulfill the course plan's goal to let the student specialise in at least one method. It will also increase your knowledge in one of the methods mentioned in the course plan. Further, you will train your ability to formulate problem. It will also enhance your ability to formulate a research problem and to plan for, and describe the method to carry it out – important learning outcomes in the course plan.

2. Report an article of own choice

Reporting an article of own choice. Each student chooses an article (or thesis/similar.) typical for her/his area (L2, writing research, German, sociolinguistics, etc.), and study the method in the article.

It is part of the task

- to find an **article/similar with some methodology** (e.g. only theoretical papers disqualifies)
- to **describe the method**
- to explain for what questions/in which research area the method is usually used,
- to propose other questions on which the method can be applied.
- to discuss the weaknesses and strengths of the method.

- to present it orally, with the support of ONE ppt-slide/pdf-page only.

Mon Sep 16. Upload suggestion of article on platform. Motivate why it is interesting, and what method(s) that are used (1/2 page).

Mon Sep 23 or Wed Oct 2: The article reports take place during two lessons.

The oral report should be 6 minutes long + 2 minutes for questions.

Purpose: This part of the examination will teach you how to search for more information about a certain area – something that is necessary to do if you want to investigate a certain field. It will further help you to fulfill the learning outcomes of being able to critically review choices of research methods in your own field, and to evaluate ethical aspects of certain methods. Further, this task train your ability to identify the types of investigation that are typical for a specific method, which is another learning outcome of the course. If you choose your article well, this analysis can also be helpful as a preparation for your last task (the individual course paper, below).

3. Participating in laborations and exercises

Participating in laborations and exercises. The course contains several laborations and exercises: ethics, recording, experimental methods, transcription and coding, philology, statistics and research process. It is obligatory to take part in at least 4 of 7.

Purpose: This part of the examination will train you in several important parts of many/most research methods in linguistics, and will thereby fulfill important parts of the course content. These exercises will also help you complete examination task 1 and 4.

4. An individual course paper

A individual course paper This can consist of a plan of the methodological part of your master thesis (or other study). The plan should include formulating a research question/hypothesis and a judgement of which methods that would be most suitable to investigate the question. It is **important** to discuss alternative methods to the one that is chosen, and to **motivate** why the chosen method would be the best one (regarding circumstances such as time, money, availability of participants, equipment, the results of previous research in the field). You **have to use references to other studies and to the course literature** when you motivate the choice you have made!

Mon Oct 7: Upload first draft, 1 page long. It should include research question/hypothesis, and brief description of the method you have chosen, and why this is a good method to answer your question. This include discussion e.g. participants/informants, choice of elicitation etc.

You should receive at least two comments on your draft from course mates, and the teacher will also comment on this draft.

You further have to comment on at least two other drafts.

All commenting takes place on the platform.

Mon Oct 21: Second draft: Upload a longer draft, 2-3 pages. For this draft you should have considered comments on the previous draft. Otherwise, this should be a more elaborated description of the first draft, and include short discussions on alternative methods to the ones you've chosen.

You will receive comments on your draft from one course mate.

You will give comments on the draft of another course mate.

The teacher will provide a list of who's commenting on whom.

All commenting takes place on the platform.

Fri Nov 16: Upload the final paper, 6-7 pages. This should be a detailed methodological description of your thesis work, including about 1/2–1 page of theoretical background (e.g. why is this an interesting question in your field).

The most important part of the paper is to *motivate* your methodological choices!! You must also include an *ethical* discussion when needed. Use *references* to at least two articles from your field and at least two articles/books of the course literature to motivate your choices. You *must* include a discussion about other possible methods to answer your research question.

You will get feedback on your paper about 2 weeks after you've handed it in.

Purpose: This part of the examination will foremost fulfill the learning outcomes of assessing a method that is most suitable for investigating a typical research problem in your specialisation. It will also train you in how to justify why a certain method is more or less suitable for addressing a certain issue. It will also enhance your ability to critically review methods, and to evaluate ethical aspects of method, types of data and informants.

Where to look for articles/literature?

- The course book give suggestions of further reading after every chapter!
- You can browse through some of the (major) journals in your field Most of these suggested journals are available through Lund University Library (www.lub.lu.se) (i.e. if you are logged in at the LU network), or is available for free on the web. Through the search system *Summon* you can reach e-journals and electronic material from hundreds of publications.
- You can also reach a lot of journals at the same time from <http://www.sciencedirect.com> . (If you are logged in at the LU network you will in most cases be able to read the articles as well.)
- Ask the librarians to help you!
- Don't forget that you are very helped by reading the **abstracts** of the articles before you choose article. That is, you probably don't have to read the whole article to decide if it will be useful for you.
- You can ask the teacher for suggestions about alternative journals or articles in their field.