



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
English

Syllabus

Understanding language learning through corpus research

Course Code:

ENAES9

Course Title:

Understanding language learning through corpus research

Att förstå språkinlärning genom korpusforskning

Credits:

7.5

Degree Level:

Master's level

Progressive

Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Specialisation:

ENA (English)

Major Field of Study:

ENA (English)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2025-03-04, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2025 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits, including at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level in one of the main subjects English, Swedish, Scandinavian Languages, or Linguistics, plus upper secondary level English 6 or B, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. give an account of the theoretical and methodological contributions of corpus research to the study of learner language use and second language acquisition,
2. give an account of key aspects of how learner corpora are designed, annotated, and analysed,

3. carry out independent corpus investigations of specific aspects of learner language use and language development, and
4. compose a corpus linguistic study in accordance with the established conventions of the field.

Content

Over the past few decades, learner corpora, that is, electronic collections of language data produced by second or foreign language learners, have gained recognition as valuable data sources in research on second language acquisition (SLA). This course introduces key aspects of the rapidly growing research field of Learner Corpus Research (LCR), including corpus design and data collection, annotation, quantitative and qualitative methods, and the role of LCR within the broader SLA framework. In addition to course literature, seminar discussions, and practical exercises, the course offers students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills by conducting a learner corpus study on a selected topic and writing a research article in line with the established conventions of the field.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-4 are assessed based on an individual oral presentation and an individual written hand-in assignment.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.