



Department of Spanish Studies, General Linguistics and Literature Theory  
University of Alicante

### 31710 GENERAL LINGUISTICS I

Degree in Catalan Studies – Degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies  
Degree in English Studies – Degree in Spanish: Language and Literatures  
Degree in French Studies  
ECTS credits: 6 (150 hours)  
Semester II (Group 4)  
Facilitator: Irma M Muñoz Baell  
Academic year: 2011-2012

## theory sessions

Driving questions: WHAT IS MODERN LINGUISTICS?

### READING 9

- 1) FINCH, Geoffrey (2000): “The development of Linguistics”, *Linguistic terms and concepts*, Series How to Study. London: Macmillan Press, p. 3-15.
- 2) CRYSTAL, David (1987): “Twentieth-century linguistics”, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 407-409.
- 3) CRYSTAL, David (1987): “The domain of linguistics”, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p. 412.

## TBL-A11

### TEAM BASED LEARNING ACTIVITY 11

#### Pair work activity and small group discussion

1. Give your **Reading Assignment 9 (RA9)** to a classmate and complete the **Student Peer Review Activity (SPR-A11)**. Then, discuss your responses to the questions asked with him/her (in particular, those where your responses differ greatly).

 **Today I am going to do the Team Based Learning Activity with:**

2. Working in **groups of four**, answer the questions that follow.
  1. Who was Ferdinand de Saussure and why is he sometimes called ‘the father of modern linguistics’?





6. Define the term oppositions *diachronic/synchronic* according to Saussure.

7. Who was Leonard Bloomfield and how did he contribute to the study of language?

8. Define **descriptive linguistics** and explain how the study of language changed with it.



9. What was so radical about Chomsky's contribution to the development of linguistics?

10. How did Chomsky define *creativity*?

11. What does Geoffrey Finch mean by the sentence 'Chomsky was responsible for initiating a new era in grammatical enquire (page 11)'?



12. How did Chomsky define *competence*? And *performance*?

13. What linguist was responsible for the idea of a **universal grammar**? How does the universal grammar relate to **linguistic universals**?

14. Define **systemic grammar** and **communicative grammar**.



15. What is Geoffrey Finch's purpose in using the sentence 'Linguistics today then is a subject whose boundaries are forever widening and which presents no single face to the world' (page 14)? And how does this idea relate to David Crystal's sentence 'The field of linguistics includes both science and the humanities, and offers a breadth of coverage that, for many aspiring students of the subject, is the primary source of its appeal' (page 412)?
16. List all the interdisciplinary fields of language and linguistics research mentioned by David Crystal (page 412)?



**FINAL REFLECTIVE QUESTION: WHAT DID WE LEARN THIS WEEK?**

**Give an answer, as comprehensive as possible, to the driving question for this week:  
What is Modern Linguistics?**