**BA seminar 2024/2025**

**Lecturer: Malgorzata Jedynak, PhD**

**Main theme: FACTORS AFFECTING FOREIGN LANGUAGE ACHIEVEMENTS**

The course has an insight into intricacies of individual variation in second language acquisition. It focuses on various factors related to biology, learners' affect, cognition, and first language background. All these factors have been proved to correlate highly with learners' foreign language success.

The course elucidates the role of *age of onset* related to critical period hypothesis which may determine FL success, particularly in pronunciation. An insight will be also given into learner’s *affective and social factors* such as motivation and attitude, willingness to communicate, attributions and locus of control, self-efficacy beliefs, self-esteem and related self-concept, autonomy, coping competence, anxiety and empathy. Finally the role of *language aptitude*, the *use of strategies* and *linguistic repertoire* will be discussed.

**Aims:**

practical and theoretical preparation to BA thesis writing in the fields of

* Foreign language learning
* English language teaching methodology
* Psychology related to foreign language learning and teaching

**Examples of FL research issues investigated in BA papers:**

new technologies used for EFL learning and teaching (TV series, movies, podcasts, social media), ESP (English in medicine/business/law/arts), CLIL (English+ school subject), motivation, anxiety, language talent, multiple intelligences, language learning strategies, language identity, multilingualism, interculturality, EU language education policies, pronunciation/grammar/ vocabulary learning, 4 skills learning and teaching, young learners vs adolescents vs adults vs seniors, lifelong learning, EFL coursebooks and materials, EFL teachers.

**Examples of 2023/2024 BA thesis topics:**

1. Teaching American culture to adolescent EFL learners. Examples of activities and tasks based on a TV series *Modern Family*.
2. Teaching Business English vocabulary to advanced EFL learners. Examples of activities and tasks based on *the Office* series.
3. E-learning experience and EFL learners’ well-being in (post)pandemic period.
4. Motivation of adults learning English as a foreign language. Comparative analysis of students majoring in different fields.
5. EFL primary school learners and Montessori method. Examples of exercises based on the use of arts.