

Course: BA Seminar – Language and meaning: change and variation

Level: 3rd year, undergraduate studies

Academic year: 2025/2026

Instructor: dr Wojciech Witkowski

Description: It is a well-known fact that language differs with respect to social groups, cultures, and time(s) and situation in which it is used. The same can be observed for the meaning that speakers ascribe to words, sentences, and utterances. This seminar will focus on variable nature of meaning. During the seminar the students will be familiarized with various linguistics to semantics of human language and treatment of meaning from formal, social and cultural perspective in synchronic and diachronic dimensions.

Theses' topic areas: Theses' topics can view meaning variation and changes from a number of perspectives. These can include, among others:

- social differences
- dialectal differences
- cultural differences
- difference resulting from type of communication medium used
- differences resulting from language use in specific fields
- contact between languages