**BA seminar 2025/2026**

**Lecturer: dr Krzysztof Hwaszcz**

**Main theme: Language, Mind, and Technology: BA Seminar on Psycholinguistics and Computational Linguistics**

This seminar focuses on how humans process language and how modern computational tools can help us study it. We will explore both experimental and corpus-based approaches to language research, combining insights from psycholinguistics (how the mind processes words and sentences) and computational linguistics (how we can model language with data and tools).

Students will be introduced to key research methods, such as:

* corpus analysis (working with collections of text, speech, or multimodal datasets);
* experimental techniques (questionnaires, behavioral tasks, eye-tracking, neurolinguistic methods);
* natural language processing tools, including large language models.

The seminar will also address major themes such as:

* multilingualism and language contact (borrowing, code-switching, language choice);
* word and sentence processing (polysemy, idioms, compounds, cognates);
* how meaning is acquired and how language shapes thought.

The aim of the seminar is to support students in developing BA theses that bridge cognitive and technological perspectives on language. Possible research directions include:

* How do we acquire the meaning of new foreign vocabulary?
* What happens in the mind when we switch between two languages?
* Can computers help us detect metaphors, idioms, or sarcasm?
* How do different people process the same sentence depending on their linguistic background?
* How can we design and use a small text or speech corpus for research?

While students are encouraged to propose their own projects, the scope of each thesis will be discussed and approved with the seminar supervisor.

The seminar will also cover practical aspects of academic work, including:

* formulating a research question and hypothesis;
* building a research plan and experimental design;
* conducting a literature review and citing sources correctly;
* analyzing data and presenting results clearly.

Students wishing to work with Polish or other languages in their theses are welcome to do so, but discussion in class will be conducted in English. Students are expected to actively participate in discussions, share feedback on peers’ work, and submit fragments of their theses according to the seminar schedule. Assessment will be based on steady progress toward completing the BA thesis.