

Language and politics – Language and power

Instructor: Dr. Dr. Julia Bacskai-Atkari

Credits: 6

Block: Block 1, autumn 2024

Description

How do people manipulate, persuade and convince each other? What techniques do people in power use to stay in power and get their way, and how do the powerless resist? How do politicians attempt to frame the debate? How does ideology influence language use? How are people described and addressed to establish and maintain asymmetry? In this course we will look at a wide range of approaches that have been developed to begin to answer these and other questions related to the link between language and politics and power. We will discuss the merits and uses of each framework; and students will learn to use these frameworks for the analysis of e.g. speeches, debates, newspaper articles, and conversations.

Literature

Simpson, Paul, Andrea Mayr & Simon Statham. 2019. *Language and power: A resource book for students*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

Requirement: a final exam (60%) and two shorter essays (40%).

Below you find additional information on the individual requirements.

Shorter essays

- Length: ca. 1000 words
- Possible topics: see the instructions on Canvas
- Deadlines: 27 September 2024 and 18 October 2024.

Final exam

- Date: 24 October 2024, 13.00–15.00
- Based on the materials covered in seminars 1–12.

Preliminary schedule:

10.09.2024	Introduction
12.09.2024	Politics and gender I: General issues
17.09.2024	Politics and gender II: Spoken language features
19.09.2024	Politics and gender III: Transitivity and agency
24.09.2024	Politics and race I: General issues
26.09.2024	NO CLASS: Exercises for home practice
01.10.2024	Politics and race II: Categorisation and representation
03.10.2024	Practice
08.10.2024	Politics and race III: Humour
10.10.2024	Politics and media I: General issues
15.10.2024	Politics and media II: Metaphor and appraisal
17.10.2024	Politics and globalisation: Multimodality