

Transition Year Linguistics Module Overview for ppli.ie Website

Overview: This Transition Year module introduces students to Linguistics. Linguistics is the scientific study of language. It is concerned with questions such as how language is structured, how it is acquired as a first language or learned as a second language, how it changes over time, how it is used in context, etc. This module was developed by the ADAPT All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO), researchers and education experts at the SFI ADAPT Centre for AI Driven Digital Content Technology and AILO teachers. Each topic includes AILO linguistics puzzles. We encourage all schools to register for [AILO 2022/23](#) to take the first round in their own schools in January 2023.

You can be a linguist without speaking any foreign languages. In order to teach this module, you don't necessarily need a background in linguistics or language teaching (including English). If you are a Maths or Science teacher, you will be familiar with similar pattern-finding and problem-solving principles. Mathematics, like linguistics, is an abstract representation of a problem.

Number of topics: Ten

Time: Two hours per topic (not including extra resources)

How to do undertake this module

You may do all ten topics or pick and choose topics to suit your class and the amount of time that you have. Each topic has a "learning intentions / task description" document below which guides you through the topic. This description also links to the slides, worksheets and puzzles for each topic. The slides have some extra information in the notes section.

Topic 1: Introduction to Linguistics

Topic 2: Historical Linguistics

Topic 3: Phonetics

Topic 4: Sociolinguistics

Topic 5: Writing Systems

Topic 6: Language Acquisition

Topic 7: Morphology

Topic 8: Syntax

Topic 9: Psycholinguistics / Neurolinguistics

Topic 10: Machine Translation (MT)

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Benefits of doing this module:

- Increased awareness about language in general. It will broaden students' perception of what the study of language entails beyond the MFL classroom. It will also inform them of the opportunities that knowledge and study of foreign languages offer.
- This in turn will encourage more students to take up a Foreign Language in senior cycle.
- Introduction to the core principles of linguistics (phonetics/phonology, morphology/syntax, meaning) will improve MFL learning. Students will develop an increased awareness of phonology, pronunciation, structures of words and sentences and meaning. They will be introduced to formal terminology to describe linguistic properties. They will also be equipped with tools to analyse languages (e.g. IPA, grammatical categories). They will learn to compare their native language with their chosen MFL and gain an awareness of how they are similar and how they differ.
- Students studying linguistics will improve their reading and writing skills. They will learn to analyse more complex English sentences and be able to use these effectively in different communicative situations.
- The study of Linguistics also leads to better cross-cultural understanding. Cultural competence is important in succeeding in an increasingly globalised world. A raised awareness of linguistic diversity improves tolerance. From a linguistic viewpoint, all languages are equal. Students will become aware of the rich linguistic environments in their schools.

Apart from these general advantages, the study of linguistics develops students' specific skills.

- Data gathering and data analysis
- Pattern recognition: students learn to find patterns in data sets from both familiar and unfamiliar languages (e.g. Past tense in English -*ed*)
- Formalising linguistic facts into rule-based generalisations (e.g. to form the past tense in English, add -*ed* to the verb stem)
- Problem-solving skills: identifying contradictory items that don't follow the pattern and find a solution to accommodate them in the generalisation (e.g. irregular forms such as *go - went*)
- Summary and representation of information in the form of visually friendly diagrams
- Statistical analysis
- Evidence-based reasoning and critical thinking: question certain assumptions and determine whether they have scientific validity

Knowledge of more than one language enhances critical thinking and problem solving skills. This is an important message for students, and this also is the message that is at heart of the government's Foreign Languages Strategy.

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Extra Resources

Most of the topics have extra resources if you would like to explore a topic further. These are also found in the task description documents.

There is a [Kahoot resource page](#) where you can access activities for the module also.

Similarly, on www.quizlet.com, you can find activities related to this module by searching for 'tylinguistics'

Certificates

Teachers can add [all student names here](#) (and teacher details) for a certificate of completion. We also provide a teacher certificate once you have delivered the course.