

**Department of Linguistics,  
University of Mumbai**

**Programme Educational Objectives  
MA in Linguistics**

The MA in Linguistics programme of the Department of Linguistics seeks to:

1. Promote research in various aspects of human languages. This involves research in sound patterns, word formation processes, sentence structures, linguistic meaning, processes of language change, language use, relationship between language and society etc. The programme aims to equip the students with a toolkit which would enable him/her to understand, describe and work with linguistic resources.
2. Instil among the students a skill-base enabling them to develop various language-based applications in the area of machine-human interaction which would be useful for the industry (especially IT industry) in particular and society in general.
3. Develop a sense of responsibility and respect in students towards the linguistic diversity of the world, by developing an attitude which is responsive to the needs of the plurilingual ethos prevalent in human societies. Special attention is given to the languages of linguistic minorities of India. Such an approach would help in promoting and strengthening participatory democratic practices.

## Programme Outcomes MA in Linguistics

The graduates shall be able to

1. **Investigate** into the structures of their first language(s) from the perspective of form, meaning and use. Through such investigation the graduates will be able to understand the complexities of language in society.
2. **Apply knowledge** to the languages other than those known by the graduates. These include the lesser known languages of India which form the bulk of India's linguistic diversity.
3. **Critically evaluate** the current theories in Linguistics. The graduates will be able to use their knowledge of linguistic structures to identify the challenges faced by theorists in cutting-edge research and look to provide solutions to those challenges.
4. Identify and pursue their **individual interests in linguistic research** and also acquire the skills of **collaborative team-work in research** in order to describe a language from varied perspectives.
5. Acquire positive attitude towards **interdisciplinary research** especially in the areas of sociology, psychology, philosophy, mathematics, computer science etc.
6. Develop **ethical practices in research** especially with respect to plagiarism, data collection from informants and collaborative research.
7. Contribute to the creation of **language-based technological applications** in the areas of translation, lexicography and Natural Language Processing (NLP).
8. Work in the upcoming areas of **Machine-Human interaction** such as Text-to-Speech and Speech-to-Text systems, dialogue systems as well as question-answering systems.
9. **Document** and create linguistic resources and searchable databases, especially of lesser known languages which would be useful in community development.
10. Understand the dynamic relationship between language-in-schools and language-in-society, and thereby contribute to the ongoing efforts of providing **sustainable solutions** which would lead to maintenance and development of **linguistic diversity** in India.
11. Examine the complexities of the **use of language in public sphere** and the role of language in cultural institutions such as media, literature, music, gestures, art etc. This will enable the graduates to develop an **integrated understanding of human behavior**.
12. **Develop a sense of respect and responsibility towards other** language communities through their understanding of linguistic ecology of India. The graduates

will also be able to articulate the problems of linguistic minorities and develop the base for effective **intervention in language policy making and planning**.

13. Acquire competence to effectively inhabit the **cross-interpretational space** across various language communities and thereby strengthen the idea of India.

**Course outcomes**  
**MA Linguistics**

**MA Semester I**

**Course: Introduction to Linguistics**

1. Examine the distinguishing properties of human language
2. Compare structural patterns in human languages
3. Examine, discuss and illustrate the processes of speech production
4. Understand and use the taxonomic categories to classify speech sounds in human languages
5. Identify and transcribe sounds in various human languages, especially one's native language(s)
6. Describe the phonological domain of languages known to the students

**Course: Morphosyntax**

1. Discuss the structure of words, phrases and sentences and word formation processes
2. Analyse the linguistic data from various human languages
3. Identify the word formation processes in various human languages as well as one's native language(s)
4. Apply the tools of syntactic analysis to identify the sentence structures of one's native language(s)
5. Compare the grammatical categories in different languages to understand the range of structural diversity in human languages.
6. Demonstrate analytic skills which will be useful for computational applications such as morphological analyser, stemmer etc.

**Course: Lexical Semantics**

1. Examine the patterns of meaning of lexical items and the sense relations
2. Analyse the words in one's native language from the perspective of their meanings
3. Apply various theories of semantics to the linguistic data of various languages
4. Critically evaluate the theories using the data of one's native language
5. Discuss the relationship between the words in a semantic domain on the basis of conceptual space
6. Create and analyse linguistic data which would be useful for lexicography

**Course: Introduction to Sociolinguistics**

1. Examine the notions of language and dialect.
2. Analyse the use of language in various social domains
3. Understand the concept of social and regional variation.
4. Understand the notion of correlation between variables and distinguish between dependent & independent variables.
5. Identify and illustrate the notion of speech community.
6. Identify the various social factors and attributes of language change in society.

## MA Semester II

### Course: Historical Linguistics

1. Understand the dynamics of language change at all levels of linguistic structure such as phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics
2. Identify the causes and mechanisms of language change
3. Examine the social aspects of language change
4. Discuss the effects of language contact in multilingual setting on the structure of languages
5. Critically evaluate the notions of language family and linguistic area
6. Demonstrate skills to reconstruct the earlier forms of a language by comparative as well as internal reconstruction methods

### Course: Principles and Parameters Approach to Syntax

1. Discuss the latest syntactic theories, in particular discuss the generative approach
2. Analyse and illustrate the syntactic structures of sentences in one's native language as well as variety of other human languages
3. Describe the various syntactic phenomena such as binding, movement, case-assignment etc. in one's native language
4. Examine the similarities and differences among languages to identify the universal syntactic principles of human language
5. Assess the applicability of the Principles and Parameters approach and the Government and Binding model in particular using the data of one's native language
6. Evaluate the Principles and Parameters model on the basis of linguistic structures known to the student

### Course: Fundamentals of Formal Semantics

1. Develop skills of logical reasoning and truth-validity
2. Examine aspects of linguistic meaning which are amenable to mathematical analysis especially set theory
3. Demonstrate expertise in Propositional Calculus, Predicate Calculus and Theory of Types
4. Apply tools of logical formalism to analyse and describe the structure of meaning
5. Investigate the compositional nature of semantics and its close association with syntactic structure
6. Interpret linguistic expressions in one's native language and other languages using formal logic

### Course: Multilingualism and Bilingualism

1. Understand the notion of multilinguality
2. Examine the functional differentiation of languages in a multilingual situation
3. Discuss the relevance of the notions of Abstand & Ausbau languages
4. Understand the characteristic features of Indian diglossia
5. Examine the various dimensions of language contact such as convergence and divergence, borrowing, code mixing etc
6. Describe the processes of language maintenance and shift in multilingual situations

## MA Semester III

### Course: Field Methods

1. Recognise and appreciate the importance of documenting human languages especially lesser known languages
2. Understand and internalize the various methods of effective data elicitation
3. Develop skills of recording, transcribing the linguistic data and of interlinear glossing
4. Analyse the linguistic data of a language not known to the students and provide a basic grammatical sketch of the language
5. Demonstrate the skill of writing a dissertation and imbibe ethics of dissertation-writing
6. Learn the skills of working in close collaboration with a community and develop respect for problems and aspirations of minorities

### Course: Advances in Principles and Parameters Approach

1. Discuss the recent theoretical developments in Generative Syntax, especially Minimalist programme
2. Examine and master the Minimalist toolkit for analysing the syntactic structures of human languages
3. Apply the toolkit to one's native language and describe various syntactic phenomena in it.
4. Identify research issues in the area of syntax and its interface with other aspects of grammar such as semantics and phonology.
5. Critically examine the notion of economy in linguistic theory
6. Compare the alternative trends within the Principles and Parameters approach and assess them on the basis of the knowledge of syntactic structure of Indian languages

### Course: Phonological Theories

1. Examine phonological structure of language in terms of syllable structure, metrical patterns, stress etc.
2. Analyse the data from languages and describe their phonological structure
3. Investigate phonological universals
4. Discuss phonological typology across the languages of the world
5. Look into the alternative phonological theories such as linear and non-linear phonological theories as well as Optimality Theory and their development
6. Compare and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the theories based on the knowledge of the phonological patterns of Indian languages

### Course: Advanced Morphology

1. Examine the various morphosyntactic features in languages such as Number, Case, Gender, Tense, Mood etc.
2. Generate the data and describe in detail how these features manifest in one's native language and other languages
3. Investigate the interface of morphology with other aspects of grammar such as phonology, syntax and semantics
4. Discuss the morphological universals
5. Examine typology of morphological features across the languages of the world in terms of forms and in terms of semantics of the features

6. Understand the cutting-edge theories in the area of morphology

### **Course: Introduction to Pragmatics**

1. Develop perspective of language as action
2. Investigate the various processes of meaning creation and its relation to different social groups
3. Examine the dynamics of conversations such as turn-taking, co-operative behaviour etc.
4. Distinguish the various interpretive processes operative in a speech event
5. The role of wit, humour, irony in language use
6. Understand the therapeutic use of language especially its role in conflict situation

### **Course: Sentential Semantics**

1. Apply concepts and tools of logical calculus to the analysis of sentential meaning
2. Investigate the logical form of the clauses especially in terms of truth-values and possible world semantics
3. Formalize the aspects of the semantics quantification in natural language
4. Examine the semantics of Tense, Aspect and Modality using the formal logical systems
5. Understand the relevance of truth-conditions to the study of meaning of sentences which are not statements such as interrogatives
6. Investigate the nature of logical form of linguistic expressions and the interaction of syntax and semantics

### **Course: Functional Approaches to Language**

1. Examine language as text, system as well as resource in the society
2. Relate the various functions of language to the structure of languages and distinguish between the properties of modes of language use especially spoken and written modes in various domains
3. Critically examine the ways of speaking and inequality among speakers as well as discuss how they relate to each other
4. Investigate the nature of language as a product of general cognitive abilities
5. Examine the relevance of functional linguistics to the development of standard literary language
6. Compare the various functional approaches to the study of language

### **Course: Cognitive Linguistics**

1. Investigate the relationship between mind, body and language to understand how the experience and mental processes shape the organization of language
2. Discuss the various lexicalization processes by which conceptual categories found expression in languages
3. Examine the principles of iconicity, metaphorizing and naturalness underlying the structure of language
4. Apply cognitive concepts like iconicity, image schema, prototypicality etc to the expressions in various languages and analyse the patterns in those languages
5. Identify conceptual universals

6. Debate on the issues concerning the relationship of language and thought with respect to the notions of linguistic determinism and relativity

### **Course: Basics of Semiotics**

1. Examine language as a system of signs using various models of studying the notion of sign
2. Distinguish between the various kinds of codes such as logical codes, aesthetic codes, social code etc
3. Discuss the notion of 'text' and analyse linguistic texts using the notions such as intertextuality, intratextuality, authorship of a text etc.
4. Analyse the processes of reading and interpreting a text in terms of reading positions, reading as rewriting etc.
5. Examine the relationship of the text and the discourse
6. Apply the metaphor of grammar to examine various forms of human behaviour such as literature, music, arts, kinship etc.

### **Course: Translation: Theory and Practice**

1. Evaluate different theories of translation and discuss their importance
2. Discuss the processes involved in translation and the problems of translatability, equivalence, loss and gain in translation etc.
3. Discuss the linguistic aspects of translation especially with respect to its relevance to language learning and teaching and contrastive analysis of languages
4. Examine and apply various processes of translation such as localization, adaptation, foreignization etc. to the texts of languages known to the student
5. Develop skills of translation of various kinds of texts- literary, technical, academic etc.
6. Develop a perspective of translation as an important site for exchange of cross-linguistic and cross-cultural ideas and knowledge

### **Couse: Introduction to Computational Linguistics**

1. Examine and discuss the importance of Linguistics in the area of Natural Language Processing
2. Discuss the various language-based technological applications and their relevance
3. Distinguish between Rule-based and Statistical approaches in Computational Linguistics
4. Learn and apply programming languages, especially Python, to write basic algorithms for processing aspects of languages known to the student
5. Understand and apply various language processing techniques such as POS tagging, spell-checking, morphological parsing such as tokenization and stemming
6. Utilize, assess and develop computational linguistic tools for research in Indian languages

## MA Semester IV

### **Project-based courses**

1. Apply the concepts and reasoning skills acquired through the MA programme to analyse particular linguistic phenomena in languages
2. Interpret and assess available literature in the selected area of research
3. Develop the skills of conducting a supervised research individually as well as in collaboration with the peers
4. Write a dissertation on the analysis of linguistic phenomenon
5. Learn to present the analysis and findings before peers in order to obtain constructive feedback
6. Learn to follow ethical practices of research especially ethics of citation

### **Ability Enhancement Course**

#### **Course: Language Documentation**

1. Examine the need and relevance of documentation of languages to the processes of language preservation and revitalization
2. Acquire the ethics of language documentation and collaboration with communities
3. Apply the skills of data elicitation, transcribe and describe the linguistic data
4. Develop the skills of maintaining metadata, construct a corpus or a data archive
5. Develop expertise in using digital platforms and software such as ELAN, Toolbox etc to record, annotate and manage the linguistic data
6. Produce a basic sketch of a lesser known language or construct a dictionary of that language

### **Ability Enhancement Course**

#### **Course: Fundamentals of Auditory and Acoustic Phonetics**

1. Examine the physics of speech sounds, i.e. physical properties of sound waves
2. Understand the physical correlates of the phonetic phenomena such as loudness, pitch, stress, quality etc. and the prosodic cues
3. Develop skills in digital signal processing and in the analysis of acoustics of speech sounds using digital software like PRAAT, Wavesurfer etc.
4. Generate and identify spectrograms of various kinds of speech sounds
5. Learn the dynamics of auditory properties of speech sounds and their perception
6. Demonstrate expertise required for technological applications in the area of Natural Language Processing such as Text-to-Speech and Speech-to-Text systems

### **Ability Enhancement Course**

#### **Course: Analysing Structures of Modern Indian Languages**

1. Apply the analytic skills and theoretical concepts acquired in previous courses to a variety of linguistic structures observed in Indian languages
2. Develop perception of the structural, especially syntactic, diversity and typology found in Indian languages

3. Discuss the distinguishing properties of language families in India and also identify the similarities between them
4. Develop skills in observing and describing structural patterns in Indian languages
5. Acquire capability of argumentation to construct an account of the observed linguistic structural patterns
6. Assess the recent research literature on the linguistic structures, especially structures in Indian languages

### **Ability Enhancement Course**

#### **Course: Stylistics and Discourse Analysis**

1. Discuss the concept of 'style' of language use
2. Distinguish between the various forms and patterning of language in literary texts
3. Develop the skills conducting stylistic analysis of forms of language use in a variety of literary genres such as prose, poetry, plays, songs
4. Examine the notion of 'discourse' and the relation of discourse in meaning creation in linguistic texts
5. Demonstrate skills in analysis linguistic texts from the discourse perspective
6. Compare and assess various approaches in discourse analysis

### **Ability Enhancement Course**

#### **Course: Advances in Computational Linguistics**

1. Understand the various applications of Linguistics in Natural Language Processing
2. Discuss the various methods of developing Question Answering systems
3. Apply methods of Name Entity Recognition, Temporal Expression and Relation Extraction to the languages known to the student
4. Examine the various models of Machine Translation (MT) such as Human-aided MT, Computer-aided MT etc.
5. Assess the adequacy of various computational tools on the basis of their applicability to Indian languages
6. Develop skills useful for emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Translation etc.

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Linguistic Traditions in India**

1. Examine the historical development of linguistic studies in India since the Old Indo-Aryan period till the modern times
2. Discuss the outlooks prevalent in various linguistic traditions in India especially with respect to the notions such as purity of language, linguistic variation, standardization
3. Compare the various theories of meaning in literary, philosophical and grammatical traditions in India
4. Understand the various linguistic categories such as word, phoneme, grammatical rule etc in Indian linguistic traditions
5. Critically evaluate the contribution of different traditions of linguistic studies in India to modern linguistics

6. Draw insights from the study of traditional grammars in different Indian languages as well as from modern linguistic traditions and understand the relevance of collaborative studies across disciplines

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Language and Philosophy**

1. Discuss the various views on the problem of linguistic meaning and examine the relationship between language, reality, representation of reality and knowledge
2. Examine the debates surrounding the notions of sense and reference
3. Assess the various philosophical theories of translation and interpretation
4. Compare theories on the compositionality of meaning and truth
5. Observe the differences between and convergence of Ideal Language philosophy and Ordinary Language philosophy
6. Understand the nature of the linguistic turn in 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Language in the Social Sphere**

1. Examine the perspectives on language as instrument of communication vs language as praxis
2. Understand linguistic diversity as a resource and as a problem in multilingual situations such as India
3. Discuss the notion of public sphere as a site of meaning creation and accessing meanings
4. Examine the role of writing and its relationship to speech in the social sphere
5. Evaluate the notions of linguistic/cultural capital, hegemony and legitimate language
6. Assess the symbolic power of language and develop sensitivity towards the role of language in achieving harmonious and peaceful social life

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Language, Power and Inequality**

1. Understand the notion of language as a social institution
2. Expand the notion of multilinguality to include not only dialects but also registers and styles
3. Investigate the language ecology of a region, especially with reference to multilinguality
4. Develop sensitive attitudes towards the problems of the linguistic minorities, language endangerment and language maintenance
5. Develop a critical perspective on the interrelationship of categories such as class, caste, gender, power and language
6. Critically assess the role of language in production and reproduction of inequality in society

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Language, Culture and Nation**

1. Develop a critical understanding of the role of language and culture in the formation of formation of modern nation-states

2. Examine the various views on the relationship of language and culture with development of participatory democracy
3. Discuss the various kinds of nationalisms and nation-building processes
4. Critically assess the language planning processes and language policy in India
5. Analyse the linguistic situation, language conflicts and language movements in India in particular and South Asia in general
6. Inculcate positive attitude towards the diversity and participatory democratic practices in order to be a responsible and informed citizen

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Syntactic Models for Computational Linguistics**

1. Identify areas of convergence in grammatical models and computational models of languages
2. Understand the use of constituent structure and functional structure of linguistic expressions and their treatment in various grammatical models
3. Evaluate the various grammatical models on the basis of their applicability in Computational Linguistics
4. Examine the processes involved in parsing linguistic expressions and develop skills in parsing the structures in various languages
5. Create computational models for languages known to the student using various grammatical models
6. Understand the applicability of syntactic models in creating digital linguistic resources such as Tree Banks

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Lexicography**

1. Differentiate between various types of dictionaries on the basis of purpose and users of dictionaries
2. Understand the importance of Linguistics especially Corpus Linguistics and Cognitive Linguistics in Lexicography.
3. Identify various types of lexical units and their treatment in dictionaries
4. Examine and demonstrate arrangement, setting, planning and representation of dictionary.
5. Discuss the processes of creating electronic dictionaries, WordNet and FrameNet.
6. Understand the importance of Lexicography in building digital linguistic resources

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Media Semiotics**

1. Apply the concepts of linguistic sign, codes, sign systems and interpretation of signs to the analysis of various modes of social media such as news, advertisement, movies etc.
2. Analysis narrative structure of different media such as cinema, TV news etc
3. Develop a perspective of the role of media in creating new norms of language use

4. Discuss the dynamic relationship between the producer and the consumer vis-à-vis the development and transmission of media content
5. Assess the manifestation of ideologies in media and the role of media in dissemination of ideologies
6. Examine the processes of meaning construction in various media

### **Interdisciplinary Course**

#### **Course: Educational Linguistics**

1. Examine the functions of language and the functions of education in democratic multilingual societies with special reference to linguistic minorities
2. Investigate the role of language in education, especially language-across-curriculum
3. Discuss multilingualism in situations such as India as a resource and as a problem in achieving 'education-for-all' objectives
4. Evaluate the language education policies with reference to India, especially strategies such as three-language formula, multilingual education etc.
5. Assess the various techniques and methodologies of effective language education, language assessment etc.
6. Develop an understanding about the social relationships as an extension of the pedagogic relationship in classrooms