

Dr Sylwester Łodej

Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego w Kielcach

Wykład pt. "Language corpora in cultural linguistics: An analytical study of American society"

Abstract

The presentation offers an account of the relationship between language and culture within the context of American society. This session explores a range of linguistic subtleties related to social dynamics in the United States, using the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and the Corpus of Historical American English (COHA). Additionally, the examination extends to English-speaking societies such as England, Australia, India, and a number of African countries, offering a comparative perspective. The talk begins with describing language corpora, familiarising the audience with the notion and utility of these resources in linguistic research. It details the methodologies of corpus linguistics, setting the foundation for the analysis ahead. Following this, the presentation outlines cultural linguistics and its scope. This part explores the relationship between language and cultural cognition, describing the ways in which language impacts and mirrors cultural norms, values, and beliefs. This introduction presents the key concepts and procedures of cultural linguistics, laying the foundation for empirical study. The main focus rests on the correlation between language and the world, highlighting the perspectival nature of language. This discussion explores how language shapes our perception of reality and is influenced by cultural and societal contexts.

The empirical analysis examines terminology and conceptual attributes in collocations. One section analyzes language describing family members such as *wife*, *husband*, *mother*, *father*, *daughter*, and *son*. This reveals linguistic constructions of familial roles and relationships in the USA and across different cultures. Another segment delves into the emotional lexicon, guided by the Discrete Emotion Theory. It scrutinizes terms related to emotions such as *anger*, *contempt*, *disgust*, *fear*, *guilt*, *interest*, *joy*, *sadness*, *self-hostility*, *shame*, *shyness*, and *surprise*. This part highlights how cultures express and conceptualize emotions linguistically, shedding light on the cultural underpinnings of emotional expression. The presentation also discusses terminology related to special education needs, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, and Dyspraxia. This

analysis examines linguistic representations of these conditions and how they vary across cultures, reflecting societal attitudes and understanding of special education needs.

In conclusion, the presentation focuses on providing a comprehensive and culturally informed analysis of language use within American society, with additional insights drawn from various other cultures for comparative understanding. Through examining language corpora, the study seeks to uncover cultural and societal meanings embedded within linguistic expressions, enhancing our understanding of the intersection between language and culture.

BIO

Dr Sylwester Łodej, absolwent Instytutu Anglistyki Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, jest pracownikiem Instytutu Literaturoznawstwa i Językoznawstwa Uniwersytetu Jana Kochanowskiego w Kielcach. Zainteresowania badawcze dra Łodeja obejmują procesy zmiany językowej i językoznawstwo kulturoznawcze. Specjalizuje się w nauczaniu historii, dialektów i praktycznej fonetyki języka angielskiego. Prowadzi warsztaty fonetyczne i szkolenia z zakresu komputerowej analizy tekstu dla nauczycieli w kraju i zagranicą. Jest autorem kursów specjalistycznych opracowanych dla Wydziału Psychologii Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (Kognitywistyka), Collegium Civitas i Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego w Krakowie. Posiada uprawnienia do pracy w szkolnictwie angielskim (Qualified Teacher Status). Prowadził zajęcia i wygłosił wykłady z zakresu językoznawstwa na uniwersytetach w USA, Japonii, Wielkiej Brytanii i Hiszpanii. Jest stypendystą (Visiting Fellow) Hyogo University of Teacher Education w Japonii. Dr Łodej ukończył kurs English Medium Instruction w St Catherine's College, University of Oxford. Jest założycielem i współredaktorem czasopism naukowych *Token: A Journal of English Linguistics* i *InScriptum: A Journal of Language and Literary Studies*.