

**Course title:** A Psycholinguistic Perspective on Second Language Acquisition

**Course code:** MDE0941

**Type of course:** compulsory

**Level of course:** MA

**Year of study:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Semester:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**Number of ECTS credits allocated:** 6

**Name of the lecturer:** Laura Cutitaru

**Course objective:** The students will familiarize with basic concepts in psycholinguistics, necessary for the proper understanding of this kind of approach to the English language acquisition.

**Course contents:** The material will be structured into 14 weekly lectures: Psycholinguistic research. Aims and methods. Learning vs. Acquisition. Is learning mechanic or predetermined? Language creativity. Optimal age for 2nd language learning. Bilingualism. Competitional models of foreign language acquisition (FLA) Contrastive analysis of FLA. Barriers to FLA. Similarities and dissimilarities in FLA and mother tongue acquisition. Cerebral representation of foreign languages. Aphasias in the bilinguals. Language – the biological model vs. The psychological model. Foreign language and emotions. Contamination. Further considerations. Conclusions.

**Recommended reading:** Chomsky, Noam. *Knowledge of Language: Its Nature, Origin, and Use*. New York: 1986; Fodor, Jerry. *The Language of Thought*. Harvard UP, 1975; Jay, Timothy. *The Psychology of Language*. New Jersey, 2002; Pinker, Steven. *The Language Instinct*. New York: 1994; Slama-Cazacu, Tatiana. *Psiholingvistica, o știință a comunicării*. București: 1999; Whorf, B.L. *Language, Thought and Reality*, MIT Press, 1956

**Teaching methods:** interactive lectures

**Assessment methods:** homework; final (written) test

**Language of instruction:** English