

Assessment guidelines (“sensorveiledning”) for EUS4100 – Second and third language acquisition and learner corpora

The assessment of the course is based on a term paper of approximately ten pages (a standard page consists of 2,300 characters). The paper must contain references and a bibliography. The bibliography is not included in the page count.

The topic of the term paper is chosen by the candidate and approved by the teachers. Students write their term paper in the language that is the focus of their masters degree (French, Spanish, German or English respectively), and the evaluation will consider both content and language. The evaluation (and marking) of the candidate’s performance on the exam follow the underlying principles regarding analytical skills, judgement and independent thinking, according to the general [evaluation criteria](#) specified by “Universitets- og høghskolerådet”.

The content of the paper, as well as the assessment of it, should reflect the stated aims and learning outcome of the course, namely that the students should demonstrate that they are able to:

- describe theories of multilingualism, cross-linguistic influence, interlanguage and stages of second/third language development
- show how these topics fit into the larger field of second/third language acquisition
- conduct systematic searches in a corpus and handle and analyse corpus data to explore these topics
- use corpus data to carry out research, written up in an academic text

The candidates have to write a paper on a topic related to one of the areas mentioned in the learning outcomes above, using material from the TRAWL Corpus. They are expected to refer to their course reading in their papers as well as finding and using other secondary sources relevant to their topic. They are not expected to use advanced quantitative methods, as the course does not include an introduction to statistics, but should be able to present and interpret quantitative and/or qualitative information in a sound manner.

The term paper is expected to follow normal conventions of academic writing with respect to form, structure and the appropriate use of sources and references, following the university’s rules for citation (and against plagiarism) as stated at

<http://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/>. All text not marked as quotations should be the student’s own. Submitting text produced by AI tools is not acceptable. The students should use an author-date style of referencing (e.g. APA or Chicago author–date).

The students have received the following template for the term paper, and are expected to include all the elements listed, although sub-sections and actual headings may vary according to the topic investigated:

Briefly describe your aim and the reasons it is worth investigating and set out your research questions.

2 Background / literature review

Give a critical review of work that is relevant for your topic. It should contain references to the relevant parts of the syllabus as well as sources more specifically addressing the different aspects of your topic.

3 Material and method

Briefly describe the use of corpora in second/third language acquisition research and more specifically the corpus you are using. Explain how you extracted data from the corpus and consider any limitations of the data and how these may affect the results. Describe the principles you will follow in your analysis and what terms and classifications you will use.

4 Analysis and discussion

Present your results in tables and figures when appropriate, and give examples to illustrate your findings. Interpret the results and discuss them in the light of theory and previous studies.

5 Conclusion

Sum up how your results address your research questions and how they agree or conflict with previous research. Comment on any inconclusiveness or limitations and point out aspects that need further research.