The PhD Program in English Linguistics

Areas of Research

The **PhD-EngLin-UCM** is developed around a research line, ENGLISH LINGUISTICS, deployed under various profiles. Specifically

PROFILES

1. Applying **cognitive models** to English texts. This profile opens the door to researches that a) analyze the lexical or grammatical categorization in relation to the organization and conceptual semantic processing; b) inquire about processes of conceptualization and categorization in our physical and sensitive pre-conceptual experience as well as the causal role played by experience in meaning; c) analyze metaphoric and metonymic mappings generated by our concepts; d) identify and describe multimodal metaphors, poetic or fictional creation processes, etc

2. Applying **functional models** to English-Spanish speech. Within this profile the analysis of linguistic form in relation to its role -as a carrier of information- and its usage in different contexts as well as in response to a large variety of purposes used by language speakers is undertaken. The analysis and the study of different types of English and Spanish texts, both written and oral, through contrastive or monographic approaches, and based on empirical data and actual discursive use of language provides relevant results of cross-cutting interest.

3. Discourse analysis from **theoretical and pedagogical perspectives**, in which the emphasis lies on the identification of new concepts, the development of new designs related to knowledge, learning or the role of education in creating identities, and the socio-educational analysis of relevant policies and options related to the use of English in various settings and recent demand. This profile discusses not only traditional acquisition and language learning, but also explores the impact that the participation in bilingual programs of integrated learning, immersion, or biculturalism may have on the creation of learning identities or academic (un)equality; or its effect on academic performance, language brokerage and other special behaviors that are common in immigration and bilingual settings. It also develops self-learning projects for specialized translation; and others related to specialized languages. Research is expanded to other key aspects involved in intercultural communication (or miscommunication), and professional multilingual working environments. Very remarkably, ongoing linguistic research also investigates the properties and complexities, configuration, evolution and classification of sign languages, focusing on the integrating role they play in inclusion programs.

4. Theoretical research on the **linguistic construction of identity** and otherness along **synchronic and diachronic** axes from historical, functional or socio-cognitive models. This profile leads to the identification of processes that explain the formation of our belief and behavior systems; to the identification of frameworks and categories that are derived from the physical pre-conceptual and sensitive experience; to the comparison of evaluation systems of reality, the definition of stereotypes or the definition of strategies of inter-subjectivity and modality that are essential in the discourse construction, with particular emphasis on the English and Spanish languages. The analysis of the identity-alterity opposition within the English-Spanish language coexistence from new theoretical perspectives has opened for the past decade new paths of exploration

particularly relevant in our country. Specifically, the one that links language and tourism. The role of language in shaping the experience of the so-called cultural tourism; the fact that English language is promoting a global lifestyle affecting tourists behavior and the culture of the host community in its accommodation to demand; the definition of communicative particularities (linguistic accommodation and cooperation responses between groups) that occur in the verbal encounter of different linguistic groups marked by a singular context, are just some of the issues that require our research today.

5. **Typological structural or textual comparison between English and Spanish.** Text analysis in this sense opens the door both to research on differences in cultural conceptualization and their linguistic projection, and to contrastive studies in the translation field, whether related to current or past stages of languages. Similarly, researchers conduct analyses contributing to the history of the reception of English and Spanish literature, analyze the impact of censorship on translation in different periods, and address key aspects of localized and advertising translation, subtitling, audio description, etc.

6. **Computational Processing of the English and Spanish languages.** The emphasis lies in the use, development and design of computerized corpora and other information and communication technologies. Within this line of research studies related to the use of computerized material for the development or validation of linguistic theories, design and creation of corpus, exploitation and development of tools for the treatment of linguistic information, or research on linguistic data for the processing of natural language have their place.