



யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம், இலங்கை
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UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA, SRI LANKA

Course Outline: Teaching Phonological Awareness and Phonics for English in Schools

Offered by: PIMD, Department of English Language Learning (DELT) and the Centre for Open and distance Learning (CODL) of the University of Jaffna

2 January 2023 - 20 February 2023

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1 COURSE OBJECTIVES

To be an effective language teacher it is necessary to not only speak and read the language, but to also understand the underlying *systems* of the language. This course aims to:

- provide language teachers in Sri Lankan primary schools with an understanding of the **systems common to all languages including English, Tamil and Sinhala**;
- provide English teachers, in particular, a **detailed explanation of the phonological (sound) and orthographic (writing) systems of English** which is essential for teaching phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, and reading;
- train English teachers in **how to teach phonological and phonemic awareness** to Grades 1 and 2 in conjunction with ABOE, and to teach the Lotus Foundation **Phonics** Program for Grades 2/3.

2 LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, participants should be able to:

- **Give examples** in both English and mother-tongue of each of the seven language systems.
- **Explain** key concepts and terminology in relation to phonology and orthography language systems.
- **Diagnose** the specific area of weakness in a child's reading ability and adjust teaching strategies accordingly.
- **Demonstrate** in the classroom an understanding of phonological and phonemic awareness and how these skills are developed in young children in Grades 1 and 2.
- **Demonstrate** a sound working knowledge of English phonics and an ability to plan and teach phonics lessons for end-Grade 2 or beginning Grade 3 according to a structured phonics program.
- **Explicitly teach** phonics and decoding skills as the essential foundation for reading.

3 TEACHING STRATEGIES

This course is an online course in which participants are expected to be self-directed in their learning. Each week students are asked to watch a pre-recorded video lecture with translation (Tamil and Sinhala), do extra reading as required, and then participate in scheduled online (Zoom) discussion tutorials facilitated by an instructor. The tutorials are structured around the weekly homework assignments and require participants to contribute to the discussion to help each other develop a deeper understanding of the topic.

4 TOPIC STRUCTURE AND COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Start Date	Topic	Tutorial dates and time
1	2 January	1. Theory and context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory of language acquisition in young children Application to the Sri Lankan language and educational context 	2 January, 4 pm
2	9 January	2. Language systems and reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The seven language systems Oral vs written language Simple View of Reading (SVR) – how decoding skills and language comprehension determine reading comprehension 	N/A
3	16 January	3. Phonology and orthography of English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sound system (phonology) and writing (orthography) system of English All about phonemes and graphemes Comparison and contrast: English, Tamil, and Sinhala 	16 January, 4 pm
4	23 January	4. Accent and pronunciation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pronunciation of English phonemes English phonemes that do not occur in Tamil or Sinhala Intelligibility over accent 	N/A
5	30 January	5. Teaching phonological and phonemic awareness of English in Grades 1 and 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and teaching phonological and phonemic awareness skills in grades 1 and 2 as a foundation for phonics Phonemic awareness activities for the Activity Based Oral English (ABOE) syllabus 	30 January, 4 pm
6	6 February	6. Systematic Phonics Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The alphabetic code What is systematic phonics? 8-week foundation phonics program for Grade 2/3 	N/A
7	13 February	7. How to teach systematic phonics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities and resources for each of the five skill areas 	13 February, 4 pm
8	20 February	8. Phonics lesson planning and assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended lesson structure and timing Phonics assessment: objective, templates, timing 	27 February, 4 pm

5 ASSESSMENT

Participants are required to complete a set of homework assignments through the course and a final online quiz. The assignments include short writing reflections, exercises to apply information covered in a module, contributing to discussion forums, and developing lesson plans as shown in the table below.

Students must attempt and receive a pass mark on every assignment in order to receive a course certificate.

Late submission of an assignment will not be accepted after grades for that assignment have been released.

Every effort will be made to grade assignments within two weeks of the submission due date. General feedback will be provided in Zoom tutorials.

Module	Assignments	Due Date
1. Theory and context	M1.1 Discussion Forum	9 January
2. Language systems and reading	M2.1 Mother tongue and language systems examples M2.2 Discussion Forum	16 January
3. Phonology and orthography of English	M3.1 Discussion Forum M3.2 Mother tongue phonology and orthography examples	23 January
4. Accent and pronunciation	M4.1 Phoneme pronunciation recording M4.2 Short writing exercise – your experience learning a language	30 January
5. Teaching phonological and phonemic awareness of English in Grades 1 and 2	M5.1 Join the Lotus e-Library M5.2 Phonemic Awareness Demonstration Lesson (lesson plan, video)	27 February
6. Systematic Phonics Program	M6.1: Discussion Forum	13 February
7. How to teach systematic phonics	M7.1: Major assignment – Phonics Lesson Plan	20 February
8. Phonics lesson planning and assessment	M8.1: Major assignment – Analysis of student phonics assessment M8.2: Final Quiz	2 March

6 COURSE MATERIALS

The primary text for this course is:

- Moats L.C. (2020). *Speech to Print – Language Essentials for Teachers*, 3rd edn. Paul H. Brookes Publishing, Baltimore, USA

During the course students will also be given access to the following materials for use in their teaching:

- ABOE and Phonemic Awareness Manual ebook: this manual has phonological and phonemic awareness activities for each theme in the ABOE syllabus and video demonstrations
- Phonics Assessment Templates: used to assess student phonics knowledge at the end of the 8-week foundation phonics program
- Links to additional online resources and lesson ideas

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