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**ATIVIDADES ACADÊMICAS – 2024/2****Area de concentração:** Linguística Teórica e Descritiva**Disciplina:** STV em Linguística Teórica e Descritiva: Communicative efficiency in language**Código:** LIG 958    **Turma:** B    **Carga Horária (1 crédito = 15 h/a):** 15**Professor(es):** André V. Lopes Coneglian; Natalia Levshina**Modalidade:**  Presencial     Semipresencial     Online    **Vagas:** 30**Período da disciplina (para disciplinas de 15h, 30h e 45h):****Dia da semana:** 26/08 a 30/8    **Horário:** 9h às 12h

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**Ementa:** Communicative efficiency has been a prominent theme in linguistics and cognitive science (Hawkins 2004; Gibson et al. 2019; Levshina & Moran 2021; Levshina 2022). It is argued that language users try to communicate efficiently, saving time and effort while making sure that they transfer the intended message successfully. Examples of efficient linguistic behaviour include the negative correlation between the length of referential expressions and accessibility of their referents, omission of unimportant or predictable arguments, phonological reduction of predictable units, Zipf's law of abbreviation, omission of complementizers and relativizers in predictable contexts, minimization of domains and syntactic dependencies, diverse markedness phenomena, and many, many others. At the same time, Levshina (2022) has shown that these diverse phenomena can be explained by several general principles of efficient communication, which will be discussed in detail in this course. Two in-depth case studies will also be provided, with the data from typology, corpora and experiments. During this interactive course, the participants will also brainstorm potential applications of the theory in their own research projects and will work in groups on small empirical case studies.

**Programa:**

Session 1. General principles of communicative efficiency in human languages. The principle of correlation between benefits and costs of communication.

Session 2. The principle of negative correlation between accessibility of information and costs of communication. Illustrations from phonology, lexicon and morphosyntax.

Session 3. The principle of maximization of accessibility. Examples from word and morpheme order.

Session 4. Two case studies: differential case marking and causative constructions in languages of the world.

Session 5. Conclusions, open questions, and theoretical and methodological challenges in research on communicative efficiency. Discussion of the results of empirical case studies.

**Bibliografia:**

Gibson, Edward, Richard Futrell, Steven Piantadosi, Isabelle Dautriche, Kyle Mahowald, Leon Bergen and Roger Levy, 2019. How efficiency shapes human language. *Trends in Cognitive Science* 23(5): 389-407. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2019.02.003>.

Hawkins, John A. 2004. *Efficiency and Complexity in Grammars*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Levshina, Natalia. 2022. *Communicative Efficiency: Language Structure and Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Levshina, Natalia, and Steven Moran. 2021. Efficiency in human languages: corpus evidence for universal principles. *Linguistics Vanguard* 7(s3): 20200081. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1515/lingvan-2020-0081>.



POSLIN-UFMG

Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais  
Faculdade de Letras  
Programa de Pós-Graduação em Estudos Linguísticos

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**Pré-requisitos:** Entender inglês.

**Outras exigências:** O curso será ministrado em inglês.