

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The history of the department goes back to 1968 when evening classes in French language were held by a Belgian priest. However no detailed information regarding the course is available. This course was subsequently discontinued.

History

In 1972 part time lecturers in French and Russian were recruited. German was introduced in 1986. Till 1979 the department was run by lecturers recruited on part-time or contractual basis. The first full-time post was created in 1980 whereupon the first full-time lecturer joined as the Head of the Department in 1984. Full-time lecturers in German and French were appointed in 1986 and 1990 respectively. Members of other faculties also taught in the Department as Guest Lecturers. A post of Assistant Professor was sanctioned by the UGC in 2010 ; the post is yet to be filled up.

Courses offered

Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma Courses (each of one year duration) are offered in French, Russian and German. Ours is the only University Department in West Bengal where Advanced Diploma Courses are offered in Foreign Languages.

Faculty Members

Total Number of full time posts : 04

Currently there are two faculty members

1. Goutam Kumar Nag, M.A. PhD, Associate Professor (French) & H.O.D
2. Sada Shiva Rao, M.A. LL.B Associate Professor (German)

Mrs Jayasree Chakraborty, M.A.(Russian) B.Lib, Associate Professor retired in October 2014. At present the post in Russian is lying vacant.

Teacher and the taught

Although usually the majority of learners of this department belong to the student community of the University of Burdwan, we very often have learners from other walks of life and of different age groups. Students of this department include doctors, engineers, teachers, businessmen, people of several other professions as well as retired persons. The heterogeneous composition of the groups makes teaching and learning all the more interesting.

Usually we follow the communicative method for all levels. However we are ready to modify our methods according to the composition of the groups and individual needs. Sometimes we

have recourse to the traditional grammar translation method. Sometimes we try to strike a balance between the modern and traditional teaching methods. However this variation in teaching method does in no way imply any compromise with the quality of teaching. Our objective always remains the same i.e. to help the learners develop the four linguistic skills namely oral comprehension, written comprehension, oral expression and written expression. But instead of adopting rigidly any particular method, we modify our teaching methods after taking into consideration the diversity of the learning methods of the learners. We always welcome the students to come up with their own innovative ideas and we are often enriched through a discussion with them.

We constantly strive to build up and maintain a congenial atmosphere in the classroom so that the learner feels free to express his/her ideas and communicate with his/her fellow learners. By organizing a series of recreational activities like role play, simulations, group discussions, we try to help them overcome their inhibitions. We see to it that the learners can apply the vocabulary, expressions and syntactic structures learnt in class in the proposed situations of communication. We ensure that even the most shy learners get an opportunity to communicate. We attach equal importance to writing particularly creative writing. Apart from these activities in class we regularly give the students home assignments. On the basis of an in depth study of the errors committed in such assignments, we frame new written or oral exercises.

Future plans

In addition to the existing languages we intend to introduce new languages like Spanish and Japanese for which there has been a growing demand over the last few years. At the same time we would like to introduce new courses in the existing languages. So far our objective has been to help the learners develop four linguistic skills as mentioned before. But given the present socio- economic scenario, more specialized courses need to be introduced in order to cater to more specific needs of the learners. The new courses that we have thought of are as follows :

- (i) Courses in Communicative French, German, and Russian
- (ii) Crash Courses in these languages
- (iii) Courses in translation (literary as well as non –literary)
- (iv) Professional Courses : e.g. French / German / Russian for businessmen/ lawyers /scientists / engineers / doctors /tourist guides / people working in call centres.

The department also intends to introduce UG Honours and PG courses. In West Bengal French is taught in Honours level only at Chandernagore Govt. College, affiliated to the University of Burdwan and PG course in the same has been introduced there. But Russian and German are not taught in the UG level anywhere in West Bengal ; only Calcutta University has PG departments. We intend to introduce UG and PG courses to cater to the needs of those who intend to pursue full time studies in these languages.

Recent activities (Publications, Seminars attended, etc by faculty members in last two years)

1. Goutam Kumar Nag

A) Participated in the 7th International Congress organized by the Association of Indian Teachers of French held at SRM University, Chennai from 17th to 20th January, 2013.

Presented a paper entitled : Exploiter<< L'Étranger>> de Camus en cours de FLE : quelques pistes.

B) Publications :

- a) Tomari Nam Balbo NanaChale : Antarango Path, *Barnolipi* (ISSN 2249 – 2666), April, 2013
- b) Ami Chini Go Chini Tomare Ogo Bideshinee : Antaranga Path, *Barnolipi* (ISSN 2249 – 2666), June, 2013.
- c) Tomari Nam Balbo Nana Chale : Tannishtha Path, *Pratidhwani, The Echo*, (ISSN 2278 – 5264), January, 2014.
- d) Kakhon Badol Chhowa lege : Antarango Path , *Antorjatik Pathshala*, (ISSN 2230-9594), January – March, 2014
- e) An in depth study of a song of Tagore, *International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS)* (ISSN 2348 -0343), Vol I , Issue 3, March, 2014.
- f) Anaysis of negative and non-negative uses of nā, particle of negation in Bengali, *International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS)* (ISSN 2348 -0343), Vol I, Issue 4 April, 2014.
- g) A Comparative Analysis of two Expletives in Bengali : NA and TO (Article in Bengali) *International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS)* (ISSN 2348 -0343), Vol I, Issue 7, July, 2014.
- h) An analysis of the numerical and adverbial characteristics of the adverb “abar” in Bengali (Article in Bengali) : *International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS)* (ISSN 2348 -0343), Vol I, No 8, August, 2014.
- i) An in depth study of a song of Tagore : o keno churi kore chay : *International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS)* (ISSN 2348 -0343), Vol I, Issue 10, October, 2014.

- j) Megh boleche jabo jabo: antarango path : *International Journal of Humanities & Social Science Studies(IJHSSS)*(ISSN2349-6711)Vol-I, Issue III, November,2014.
- k) An in depth study of a song of Tagore : shudhu jaowa asa: *International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies (IJIMS)* (ISSN 2348 -0343), Vol I I, Issue 02, December, 2014.