

To the Spanish Ministry

Leiden, April 18, 2023

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

We kindly ask your attention for the following serious problem: in the **“Proyecto de Real Decreto por el que se establecen los ámbitos de conocimiento a efectos de la adscripción de los puestos de trabajo del profesorado universitario”**, we noticed that the scientific domain of “Linguistics” is not mentioned any longer. However “Linguistics” is the backbone of our human competences and a corebusiness in academia.

The international committee of linguists, that brings together the most famous linguists from all over the world, seriously objects to the missing out of linguistics in the academic scene.

We have a number of reasons we would like to share with you:

1. Linguistics is the scientific study of language and how it is acquired, produced, and understood. It is a field that explores the structure, meaning, and function of language in all its forms, including spoken, written, signed, and gestured language.
2. Linguistics is a multidisciplinary field that draws on insights from psychology, neuroscience, computer science, philosophy, anthropology, and other disciplines. As such, it has the potential to bridge gaps between different fields of study and promote interdisciplinary collaboration.
3. Linguistics has a wide range of subfields that explore different aspects of language. These include phonetics (the study of speech sounds), phonology (the study of sound systems), morphology (the study of word structure), syntax (the study of sentence structure), semantics (the study of meaning), pragmatics (the study of language use in context), and sociolinguistics (the study of language in society). It has practical applications in many fields. For example, natural language processing (NLP) technologies rely heavily on Linguistics research and are used in various applications such as search engines, machine translation, and speech recognition. Linguistics also informs language education and policy, as well as the development of tools for language assessment and diagnosis.
4. Linguistics is a cross-cutting field. As a basic and applied science, it makes an integral part of many degree programs that belong to different fields of study, without this meaning that it can be diluted in them. In fact, Linguistics has official recognition as a basic subject and, therefore, a fundamental field of knowledge in the Arts and Humanities branch. The research methods of modern linguistics have become a model and paradigm for other disciplines apparently unrelated to it, such as Anthropology. This cross-cutting nature provides yet another argument in favor of the proposal to maintain Linguistics as an independent field.

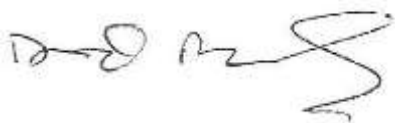
5. Linguistics is recognized as a major and independent research field in academia worldwide. It is a well-established field with a strong presence at international conferences and in scholarly journals. There are also several international organizations dedicated to Linguistics. It is part of the UNESCO International Nomenclature for Science and Technology fields as one of the 24 main codes (<https://skos.um.es/unesco6/00/html>) used by UNESCO to organize knowledge. Most of these main codes have also been included as fields of knowledge in this Real Decreto, but Linguistics (UNESCO code 57) has not been included. Linguistics is also one of the descriptors in the Web of Science (WOS) and Scopus. WOS includes Language & Linguistics and Linguistics as categories in the Journal Citation Reports™, comprising 647 indexed journals.

Scopus (<https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic#basic>) has the category Language & Linguistics and records 1135 indexed journals. The descriptor *Linguistics* is also included in the QS ranking for the Arts and Humanities. MIT (<https://linguistics.mit.edu/faculty/>) ranks #1, and two Spanish universities have been ranked among the top 100 universities, the Autonomous University of Barcelona (ranked 91st) and the Complutense University of Madrid (ranked 98th).

6. Linguistics and Philology are related fields, but they are distinct and have different focuses. Philology is a broad field that encompasses the study of language and literature, including the historical, cultural, and social contexts of language and literature. It involves the close examination and interpretation of texts in their original language, with the aim of understanding their historical context and cultural significance. Linguistics, on the other hand, is a scientific field that emerged in the 19th century and is concerned with the study of language as a system of communication. It involves the analysis and description of language structure, including its sounds, words, sentences, and meanings, and the investigation of how language is acquired, processed, and used by humans. One of the key differences between Linguistics and Philology is their methods of inquiry. Linguistics is grounded in empirical research, using quantitative and qualitative methods to investigate language structure and use. In contrast, Philology often employs more qualitative and interpretive approaches to analyze texts and cultural artifacts.

Therefore, while Linguistics and Philology share some common ground, they are distinct fields with different approaches and focuses. Linguistics is not a subfield of Philology, but rather a field of study in its own right. Linguistics has made ground-breaking discoveries about language structure, language acquisition, and language processing, and continues to push the boundaries of our understanding of language and its role in human cognition and behavior.

We hope that we have made it clear that “linguistics” is a core scientific domain, and therefore it deserves its status in the new law.



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