



# Meeting II

## Introduction to Linguistics

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# Several areas of studies in Linguistics

- General or theoretical linguistics
- Descriptive linguistics
- Comparative and Historical Linguistics
- Applied Linguistics



# Several areas of studies in Linguistics

- General linguistics  
a question as how the linguist defines his object of study; the properties he assumes all languages must have
- descriptive linguistics  
the main task of the linguists to describe languages in a scientific fashion.
- comparative and historical linguistics  
the historical development of a language.
- Applied linguistics  
the study of language and linguistics in relation to practical problems.



# What is a linguist?

- A person who studies linguistics.
- Linguists does not need to be fluent in languages.
- They must have a wide experience of different types of languages.



# Linguistics

- The systematic study of language
- Study language in scientific manner

Scientific manner

1. Objective or disinterested
2. Empirical method

Empiric

Observation, description, and explanation



# How does linguistics differ from traditional grammar

- Linguistics is descriptive not prescriptive. interested in what is said not what they think ought to be said.
- Linguists regard the spoken language as primary not the written.
- It does not force languages into Latin



# The scope of linguistics

- Phonetics  
the study of the production and perception of speech sounds
- Phonology  
the study of the sound patterns of language. It is concerned with how sounds are organized in a language
- Syntax  
arrangement and the forms of words
- Semantics  
deals with meanings of words
- Pragmatics  
deals with how speakers use language in ways which cannot be predicted from linguistics alone. This is the expanding topic of semantics





- Sociolinguistics  
the study of language and society
- applied linguistics,  
the application of linguistics to language teaching
- Psycholinguistics  
the study of language and mind
- Stylistics  
the study of language and literature
- Sociology, anthropology, philosophy, literature, languages, psychology



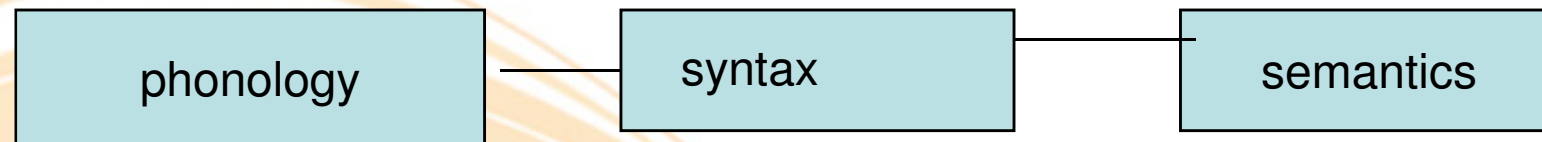


- Synchronic linguistics  
the analysis of language at a single point  
in time
- Diachronic linguistics  
dealt with before historical



- Phonology, syntax, and semantics are bread and butter of linguistics.

## Grammar





# What is language?

- The specialized sound signaling system which seems to be genetically programmed to develop in humans.
- Humans can communicate in numerous other ways; they can wink, wave, smile, tap someone on the shoulder, etc.
- Humans can transfer language to other media; written symbols, Braille, sign language.
- Language based on sound is more widespread, and perhaps more basic.



# The characteristics of language

- Use of sound signals → several advantages
- Arbitrariness → there is no link whatsoever between the signal and the message. The symbols are arbitrary. Onomatopoeic words are exceptions, but there are relatively few.
- The need for learning
- Duality  
the organization of language into two layers- a layer of sounds which combine into a second layer of larger units
- Displacement  
human language can communicate about things that are absent as easily as about things that are present.



# The characteristics of language

- Creativity (productivity)

human can produce novel utterances whenever they want to.

- Patterning

Human language is most definitely not a haphazard heap of individual items. They do not juxtapose sounds and words in a random way. They ring the changes on a few well-defined patterns.

- Structure dependence



# Human language vs animal communication

- Both human and animal use signaling system which uses sounds
- Duality and displacement are extremely rare in the animal world.
- Creativity seems not to be present in an animal communication
- Patterning and structure dependence may also be unique language features.



# Origin of language

- How and when did we start to talk?
- Probably developed in east Africa
  1. humans had to view the world in certain ways
  2. they are able to produce a range of sounds
  3. they must have attained the 'naming insight.'





# The role of language

- Persuading and influencing
- Communicating feelings and emotions
- For aesthetic reason

