

# LINGUISTICS

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An Overview

# LINGUISTICS

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- What is language?
  - How does language work?
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# LINGUISTICS

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- The systematic inquiry into human language-into its structures and uses and the relationship between them, as well as into the development and acquisition of language. (Finegan, 2004)
  - The scope of linguistics includes both language structure (and the grammatical competence underlying it) and language use (and its underlying communicative competence)
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# LINGUISTICS

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- The study of language as a system of communication (Richards, et.al, 1985)
  - It covers sound systems (PHONETICS, PHONOLOGY), sentence structure (SYNTAX), and meaning systems (SEMANTICS, PRAGMATICS, FUNCTIONS OF LANGUAGE)
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# COMBINATION WITH OTHER DISCIPLINES

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- Anthropological linguistics
  - Psycholinguistics
  - Sociolinguistics
  - Applied linguistics
  - Comparative linguistics
  - Contrastive analysis
  - etc
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# DISCOURSE

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- A general term for examples of language use, ie language which has been produced as the result of an act of communication (Richards, et.al., 1985)
  - It refers to larger units of language such as paragraphs, conversations, interviews, etc.
  - The study of both written and spoken discourse is known as DISCOURSE ANALYSIS
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# DISCOURSE

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- A sequence of spoken or written utterances that “go together” in a particular situation
  
  - A conversation at a dinner, a newspaper column, a personal letter, a radio interview, a subpoena to appear in court
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# Oh, look!

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- It is a discourse although it is not a sequence of utterances, because it is produced within a situational context that helps determine an appropriate information structure
  
  - See pragmatics for information structure
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Pragmatics overlaps with discourse analysis, which deals with the various devices used by speakers and writers when they knit single sentences together into a coherent and cohesive whole.

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# PRAGMATICS

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- ❑ The branch of linguistics which studies those aspects of meaning which cannot be captured by semantic theory.
  - ❑ In brief, it deals with how speakers use language in ways which cannot be predicted from linguistic knowledge alone.
  - ❑ In a narrow sense, it deals with how listeners arrive at the intended meanings of speakers
  - ❑ In its broadest sense, it deals with the general principles followed by human beings when they communicate with one another
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# Compare the followings

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- A.** George ate the curry with delight. Curry had always been George's favourite food. The curry was subtly flavoured. George detected hints of cumin and coriander in the curry. Cumin and coriander are George's favourite spices.
- B.** George ate the curry with delight. This type of food had always been his favourite. The dish was subtly flavoured, and in it he detected hints of his favourite spices, cumin and coriander.
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# Compare the followings

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- A. Edna: Someone ought to lock up Fred.  
Minnie: Fred is disgrace  
Edna : Someone caught Fred peeping at the new lodger through the bathroom window.  
Minnie : What is the name of the new lodger? Is the name of the new lodger Arabella or Annabel?
- B. Edna: Fred ought to be locked up.  
Minnie: That man's disgrace.  
Edna: He was caught peeping through the bathroom window at the new lodger.  
Minnie: What's her name? Is it Arabella or Annabel?
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