

THE DEFINITION AND BRANCHES OF LINGUISTICS

The Definition of Linguistics.

Linguistics is study of language.

Linguistics is concerned with human language as a universal and recognizable part of human behavior and of the human abilities. Raja T. Nasr (1984).

Linguistics is competence as being a persons potential to speak a language, and his or her linguistics performance as the realization of that potential. Monica Crabtree & Joyce Powers (1994).

The Branches of linguistics

1. General linguistic generally describes the concepts and categories of a particular language or among all language. It also provides analyzed theory of the language.

Descriptive linguistic describes or gives the data to confirm or refute the theory of particular language explained generally.

- 2. Micro linguistic is narrower view. It is concerned internal view of language itself (structure of language systems) without related to other sciences and without related how to apply it in daily life. Some fields of micro linguistic:**
- a. Phonetics, the study of the physical properties of sounds of human language**
 - b. Phonology, the study of sounds as discrete, abstract elements in the speaker's mind that distinguish meaning**
 - c. Morphology, the study of internal structures of words and how they can be modified**
 - d. Syntax, the study of how words combine to form grammatical sentences**
 - e. Semantics, the study of the meaning of words (lexical semantics) and fixed word combinations (phraseology), and how these combine to form the meanings of sentences**
 - f. Pragmatics, the study of how utterances are used (literally, figuratively, or otherwise) in communicative acts**

- g. Sociolinguistics, the study of social patterns and norms of linguistic variability.**
- h. Clinical linguistics, the application of linguistic theory to the area of Speech-Language Pathology.**
- i. Neurolinguistics, the study of the brain networks that underlie grammar and communication.**
- j. Biolinguistics, the study of natural as well as human-taught communication systems in animals compared to human language.**

Computational linguistics, the study of computational implementations of linguistic structures.

Source : the essential of linguistics science raja t nasr. (1984)

language files, monica crabtree & joyce powers (1994)

Historical linguistics

Historical linguistics (also diachronic linguistics) is the study of language change. It has five main concerns:

to describe and account for observed changes in particular languages*;

*to reconstruct the pre-history of languages and determine their relatedness, grouping them into language families (comparative linguistics);

to develop general theories about how and why language changes;*

to describe the history of speech communities*;

*to study the history of words, i.e., etymology.

History and development

Modern historical linguistics dates from the late 18th century and grew out of the earlier discipline of philology, the study of ancient texts and documents, which goes back to antiquity.

Interlinguistics:

Interlinguistics is the study of various aspects of international communication. This may include, for example, changes in languages related to contacts between two or more languages. For the most part, however, interlinguistics refers to research on the possibilities of optimizing international communication, usually involving international auxiliary languages or IALs.

While interlinguistics may include study of existing IALs, its purpose is generally to develop a new one. The International Auxiliary Language Association (IALA), which developed Interlingua, is an example of an interlinguistic research body. The International Delegation, which developed Ido, also engaged in interlinguistic research.

Psycholinguistics:

Psycholinguistics or psychology of language is the study of the psychological and neurobiological factors that enable humans to acquire, use, and understand language. Initial forays into psycholinguistics were largely philosophical ventures, due mainly to a lack of cohesive data on how the human brain functioned. Modern research makes use of biology, neuroscience, cognitive science, and information theory to study how the brain processes language. There are a number of subdisciplines; for example, as non-invasive techniques for studying the neurological workings of the brain become more and more widespread, neurolinguistics has become a field in its own right.

Sociolinguistics:

Sociolinguistics is the study of the effect of any and all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations, and context on the way language is used. Sociolinguistics overlaps to a considerable degree with pragmatics.

It also studies how lects differ between groups separated by certain social variables, e.g., ethnicity, religion, status, gender, level of education, etc., and how creation and adherence to these rules is used to categorize individuals in social class or socio-economic classes. As the usage of a language varies from place to place (dialect), language usage varies among social classes, and it is these sociolects that sociolinguistics studies.