

NEW BRANCHES OF LINGUISTICS

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Abstract: *The work of linguists falls into two main areas: language structure and language use. Linguists interested in language structure consider the formal properties of language, including word structure (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), speech sounds and the rules and patterns between them (phonetics and phonology), and meaning in language (semantics and pragmatics). Linguists also study the way that language is used, and this can cover a very broad range of subjects, since language enters almost every area of human activity. Examples include: psycholinguistics (the psychology of language acquisition and use); historical linguistics and the history of languages; applied linguistics (using linguistic knowledge to help in real-world situations like language teaching); sociolinguistics, varieties of English, discourse analysis and conversation analysis (language use in social contexts) and stylistics (the use of different styles in language). You will find examples of research that has been undertaken in each area of linguistics. Research is an important part of what linguists do in universities. All linguists engage in research alongside teaching, which means that they are pushing the boundaries of knowledge in the area^[1]*

Key words : *Linguistics, macro linguistics, micro linguistics, applied linguistics, historical linguistics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, stylistics, comparative linguistics, phonetics, pragmatics, syntax, semantics, morphology.*

Introduction

Linguistics is the study of language. People who study language are called linguists. There are five main parts of linguistics: the study of sounds (phonology), the study of parts of words, like "un-" and "-ing" (morphology), the study of word order and how sentences are made (syntax), the study of the meaning of words (semantics), and the study of the unspoken meaning of speech that is separate from the literal meaning of what is said (for example, saying "I'm cold" to get someone to turn off the fan (pragmatics)).

There are many ways to use linguistics every day. Some linguists are theoretical linguists and study the theory and ideas behind language, such as historical linguistics (the study of the history of language, and how it has changed), or the study of how different groups of people may use language differently (sociolinguistics). Some linguists are applied linguists and use linguistics to do things. For example, forensic linguistics is used in crime investigations, and computational linguistics is used to help make computers understand languages, as in speech recognition.

Linguistics, in its broader context, includes evolutionary linguistics, which considers the origins of language; historical linguistics, which explores language change; sociolinguistics, which looks at the relation between linguistic variation and social structures; psycholinguistics, which explores the representation and function of language in the mind; neurolinguistics, which looks at language processing in the brain; language acquisition, how children or adults acquire language; and discourse analysis, which involves the structure of texts and conversations.

Although linguistics is the scientific study of language, a number of other intellectual disciplines are relevant to language and intersect with it. Semiotics, for example, is the general study of signs and symbols both within language and without. Literary theorists study the use of language in literature. Linguistics additionally draws on and informs work from such diverse fields as acoustics, anthropology, biology, computer science, human anatomy, informatics, neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, sociology, and speech-language pathology. Discourse analysis is the study of entire conversations or texts.

Many linguists compare languages to find similar properties. That makes it possible to find things shared by all the languages of the world and also learn the languages that are related in a language family. Linguists who study how languages are structured and how they work are said to study theoretical linguistics.

Another part of linguistics is involved in understanding how languages are used in society or in the world. Sociolinguistics studies how language is used in society, and historical linguistics studies how languages change over time and how languages were in the past. One part of historical linguistics is etymology, the study of the history of words.^[2]

Main part

Due to the intricate structure of languages and their far-reaching impact, there are various subfields, domains, and specialised branches of linguistics. Here are the main branches of linguistics with examples.

Psycholinguistics - Psycholinguistics is amongst the most popular branches of linguistics that studies the relationship between psychological processes and linguistic behaviour. An example of psycholinguistics is found in the study of how humans perceive language and why certain words have the capacity to trigger us emotionally, more so than other words.

Such branches of linguistics also seek to understand how humans acquire and master languages. Psycholinguists often work with child psychologists and conduct research on speech and language development to understand how humans perceive and produce language.

Sociolinguistics - This is another one of those branches of linguistics that serves a crucial function in our understanding and application of linguistics. Because language is a deeply human and social construct, socio-linguistics deals with the effect of different aspects of society on language.

On top of that, it studies the interaction of languages as people from different cultures and heritage interact. One example of sociolinguistics is the emergence of different dialects of a language, as is the study of language confluence, such as Hindi and English being spoken together as Hinglish.

Applied linguistics - Applied linguistics involves the practical use of linguistics to solve real-life problems. Linguists make use of other fields such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, etc. to better understand how to apply their study of linguistics to help people and solve real-world concerns. It is best to understand such branches of linguistics with examples. Applied linguistics can be seen in speech therapy, translating texts from different cultures or ages, and even in the process of second-language acquisition.

Computational linguistics - This is a relatively new branch of linguistics that deals with the use of language by computers and programs. Such branches of linguistics leverage computer science to analyse, model, and produce speech. One example of computational linguistics is the AI-driven Google Assistant that uses natural language processing and speech recognition systems to do your bidding.

Comparative linguistics - As the name suggests, this branch is associated with identifying similarities and differences between languages that have a common origin. For instance, romance languages like Italian, French, and Spanish differ in speech and construction even though they all originated from Vulgar Latin of the Roman era. Studies in comparative linguistics also include studying distant languages, such as Sanskrit and German that are separated by thousands of kilometres and years, but which nevertheless have structural and etymological similarities.

Historical linguistics - This is one of the more intriguing branches of linguistics. It studies the evolution of languages over a period of time and analyses the changes that took place within them. One of the purposes of this branch is the examination of ‘dead’ languages, such as Latin, Sanskrit, Ancient Greek, etc., and the emergence of current languages from them. Historical linguistics also enables us to reconstruct earlier stages of languages to understand how grammar, semantics, and phonetics can change over time.

Stylistics - This is another one of the important branches of linguistics. It is the study and interpretation of style and rhetorics as employed by different authors within a language. Oftentimes, such interdisciplinary branches of linguistics include the study of literature which lets one analyze symbolism, rhyme and rhythm, dialogues, sentence structures, etc. For example, the language used in politics and advertising is very different from that of religious texts and classical literature. The analysis of that comes within the domain of stylistics^[3]

Conclusion

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. In order to study language at a closer level, scholars have broken down linguistics into various branches for easy study. We also refer to this as levels of language study. Various definitions have been

given by different scholars on what language is. Language is the expression of ideas by means of speech-sounds combined into words. Words are combined into sentences, this combination answering to that of ideas into thoughts.

RESOURCES:

1. Zuckermann, Ghil'ad (2003). *Language Contact and Lexical Enrichment in Israeli Hebrew*. England: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN 9781403917232.
2. <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/linguistics/home/all-about-linguistics/about-website/branches-linguistics>
3. <https://www.careers360.com/articles/branches-of-inguistics-counar>

