

IDHAYA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, KUMBAKONAM



SEMESTER	: IV
SUBJECT	: LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS
SUBJECT CODE	: 16ACCEN8
CLASS	: II BA ENGLISH
TITLE OF THE PAPER	: LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY CULTURE
NAME OF THE FACULTY	: MRS. M. ANNALAKSHMI

Language Development

what is language???

- Language is a system of symbols or word sequences, that is used to communicate with others.
- It is the communication of information through symbols arranged according to systematic rules.

WHAT IS LINGUISTICS?

- Linguistics is defined as the **science of language or the scientific study of language**. In this definition, there are two key terms; the first is *scientific or science* and the second is *language*.

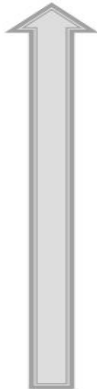
The origins of language

1. The divine source
2. The natural sound source
3. The social interaction source
4. The physical adaptation source
5. The tool-making source
6. The genetic source

Theories of the origins of Language

- **The bow-bow theory:** based upon the notion that speech arose through people imitating the sounds of environment, especially animal calls, the use of onomatopoeic words
- **The pooh-pooh theory:** based on the evidence that speech arose through people making instinctive sounds
- **The ding-dong theory:** postulates that speech arose because people reacted to the world around them, sound symbolism
- **The yo-he-ho theory:** based on the notion that speech arose from physical environmental needs which produced communal, rhythmical grunts which later on developed into chants
- **The la-la theory:** provides that if any single factor was responsible to initiate human language, it would be romantic-side of human life

Levels of Language

Semantics	Related to meanings	
Syntax	Related to structure of sentences	
Morphology	Related to formation of words	
Phonology	Related to sound system (symbols) of a particular language	
Phonetics	Related to sounds of a language	

Mention the names of major modern linguists.

Ferdinand de Saussure, Edward Sapir, Leonard Bloomfield, Noam Chomsky and Charles are the major modern linguists.

SOCIOLINGUISTICS

- The study of the relationship between language and society by using research from anthropology, culture, sociology, and the role of language in social groups.

Language Variation



- ✓ The notion of speech community is most generally used as a tool to **define a unit of analysis** within which to analyze **language variation** and **change**. Stylistic features differ among speech communities based on factors such as **the group's socioeconomic status, common interests** and **the level of formality** expected within the group and by its larger society.

WHAT IS DIALECT ?

- A regional variety of language distinguished by features of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation from other regional varieties and constituting together with them a single language.
- A dialect is the language used by the people of a specific area, class, district, or any other group of people. The term dialect involves the spelling, sounds, grammar and pronunciation used by a particular group of people and it distinguishes them from other people around them.
- Dialect is a very powerful and common way of characterization, which elaborates the geographic and social background of any character.

Example

American English, British English, Irish English, Indian English, Pakistani English and Philippine English, Etc.

Register

In **linguistics**, a **register** is a **variety** of a **language** used for a particular purpose or in a particular social setting. For example, an **English** speaker may adhere more closely to **prescribed grammar**, pronounce words ending in -ing with a **velar nasal** (e.g. "walking", not "walkin'") and refrain from using the word "**ain't**" when speaking in a formal setting, but the same person could violate all of these prescriptions in an informal setting.



JARGON



- Special words and phrases which are used by particular groups of people, especially in their work
- An outlandish, technical language of a particular profession, group, or trade

Slang Definition

- It consists of a number of **different ways of speaking**, sub-languages, expressions, spelling techniques and idioms that have obtained most of their meaning on the Internet.
- These different kinds of language can be either known as chatspeak, SMS speak/Textspeak or IM language.
- In the broadest sense Internet slang also includes emoticons, or simple graphics type with keyboard strokes.

WHAT IS STYLE ?

STYLE : is the way the author uses words, phrases, and sentences.

The author's

- 1) personal word choice/vocabulary,
- 2) types of sentences,
- 3) point of view from which the text is told,
- 4) organization of the text.

These 4 components will reveal his/her style.



Whorfian Hypothesis

- Linguistic determinism – the claim that language strongly determines thought or perceptions of the world.
 - Do eskimos have more words for snow?
 - Do they perceive snow differently because of it?
 - Rosch's study of Dani color cognition:
 - Focal vs non-focal colors.
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How are language and culture related?

- Language and culture are intertwined.
- A particular language usually points out to a specific group of people.
- When you interact with another language, it means that you are also interacting with the culture that speaks the language.
- You cannot understand one's culture without accessing its language directly.

