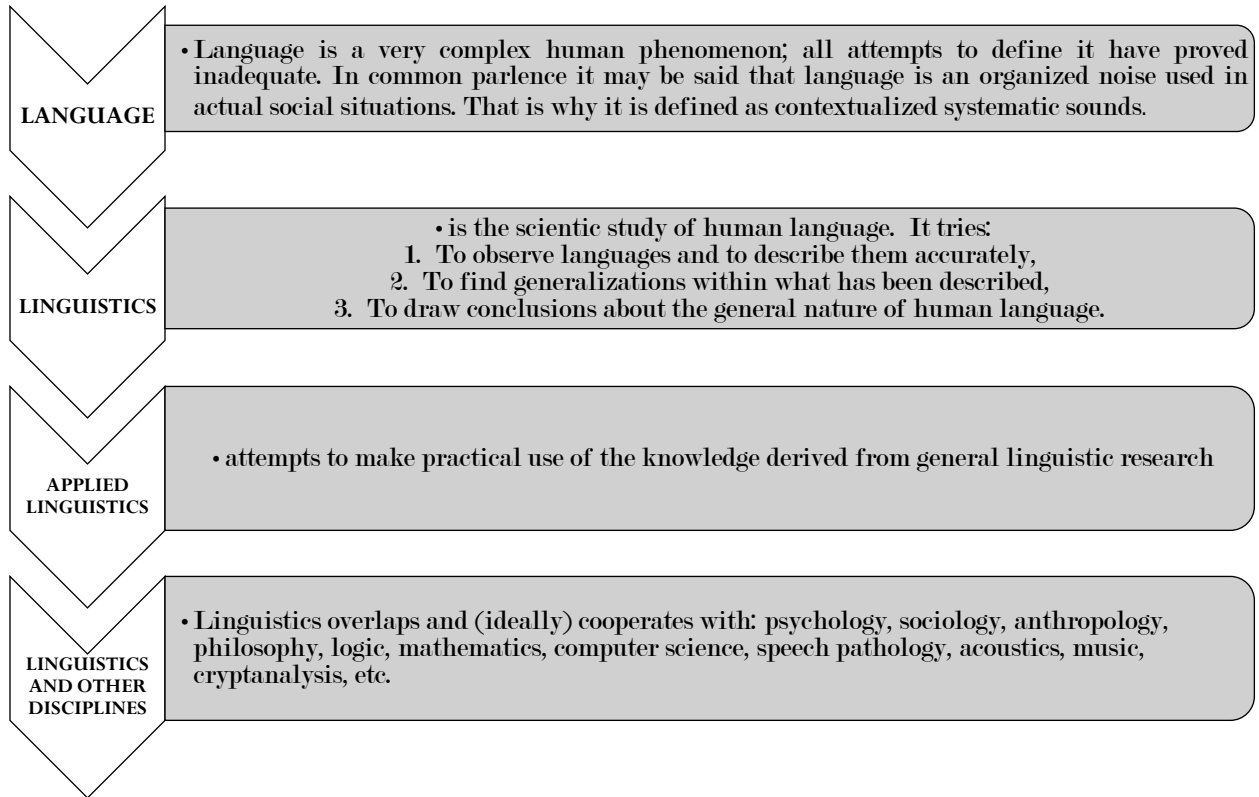


GENERAL REVISION: basic concepts



Branches of linguistics



Characteristics of Language

1. Arbitrariness: Language is arbitrary as there is no logical connection between the nature of things or concepts the language deals with, however by which those things and concepts are expressed.

2. Language is a Social Phenomenon: Language should be considered as a social phenomenon. It is as a means of nourishing and developing culture and establishing human relations.

3. Language is a Symbolic System: Language signifies as a symbolic system. It consists of different types of sound symbols for concepts, things, ideas, object etc. Language has sounds and words as their symbol.

4. Language is Systematic: In spite of the fact that language is symbolic, its symbols are arranged in specific systems. All languages have their arrangement of plans. All languages have phonological and syntactic systems and within a system, there are also several sub-systems.

5. Language is Vocal, Verbal and Sound: Language is a system of vocal and verbal symbolism. It is essentially comprised of vocal sounds just created by a physiological articulatory component in the human body. First and foremost, it shows up as vocal sounds only. Language takes verbal elements such as sounds, words and phrases which are fixed up in certain ways to make several sentences.

6. Language is Non-Instinctive, Conventional: No language was made in multi-day out of a commonly settled upon the recipe by a gathering of people. Language is the result of advancement and tradition. Every age transmits this tradition on to the following. Language as non-instinctive because naturally it is acquired by us.

7. Language is Productive and Creative: Language has it's own efficiency and innovativeness. The auxiliary components of human language joined to created new expressions, which neither the speaker nor his/her listeners may ever have made or heard previously

8. Language is a System of Communication: Language is strong, convenient and the best form of communication for no doubt. It is the best way to express everything. It is through language that we human beings express our thoughts, desires, emotions and feelings. Further, we can interact with each other easily through the welfare of language. After all, we may say that language is the best system of communication around the world.

9. Language is Human and Structurally Complex: Human language is open-minded, extendable and modifiable in contrary to animal language. Language should be modifiable through time to time. No species other than human beings have been endowed with the language. So we can say that language is naturally human and in some cases, structurally complex and modifiable.

10. Language is Unique, Complex and Modifiable: It's true that language is a unique phenomenon in the world. Every language has its own characteristics and distinctive features. Furthermore, each language has its own creativity and productivity to deliver the best ways in order to communicate with each other. And this is how language has its own potentiality to be unique, complex and modifiable by the change of time and culture.

Reference:

Yule, George 2010. *The Study of Language*. Fourth edition. Cambridge: University Press

