

Al- Ma'mon University College

Department of English Language

3rd Year

Linguistics

Textbook: Linguistics (Aichison, 2010)

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Linguistics

Linguistics :- is the scientific or systematic study of language.

Linguist :- a person who studies linguistics . Linguists are often skilled , objective observers rather than participants , consumers of language rather than producers.

The term linguist is considered unsatisfactory, because it may refer to someone who speaks a large number of languages .

Q What are the differences between linguistics and traditional grammar?

- 1- Linguistics is descriptive not prescriptive . Linguists are interested in what is said not what they think ought to be said . They describe language in all its aspects, but do not prescribe rules of correctness ,and this is the most important point .
- 2- Linguists regard the spoken language as primary , not the written because the speech preceded the writing everywhere in the world , and as well as most writing systems are derived from the vocal sounds.

3- Linguistics does not force languages into a Latin – based Framework. Linguists reject the idea that anyone language can provide enough framework for all other language .

Q What is the difference between phoneticians and linguists ?

Phoneticians are concerned with the actual physical sounds , the raw material out of which language is made . They study the position of the tongue , teeth and vocal cords during the production of sounds . While Linguists are more interested with the way in which language is patterned . They analyze the shape or form of these patterns rather than the physical substance out of which the units of language are made.

The scope of Linguistics

Phonetics : The study of human speech sounds.

Phonology : The study of sound patterning of a particular language .

Syntax : it is that part of language which links together the sound patterns and the meaning . (refers to both the arrangement and the form of words).

Semantics : The study of meaning which is concerned with the use of suitable word in the suitable position.

e.g. Ali arrived yesterday . Not Ali arrived tomorrow.

Morphology : The study of internal structure of words.

e.g. reopened → open (base)

Pragmatics : one of linguistics branches that deals with how speakers use language in ways which can not predicted from linguistic knowledge alone.

psycholinguistics : The study of language and mind .

Sociolinguistics : The study of language and society .

Applied linguistics : The application of linguistics to language teaching .

Computational linguistics : The use of computers to simulate language and it's working .

Stylistics : The study of language and literature .

Anthropological linguistics : The use of computers to simulate language and it's workings .

Philosophical linguistics : The study of the link between language and logical thought .

Historical linguistics : The study of language change since it's origin till nowadays , and can be divided into :

1- Synchronic linguistics : The study of language at a single point in time .

e.g.: The study of English language in Shakespearean period.

2-Diachronic linguistics: The study of language across the whole periods of time since it's origin till nowadays.

Linguistic typology: The study of different language types .