



Tikrit University

College of Education

English Department

Class: 3rd

Linguistics

Lecture Title: Linguistics as a scientific study of Language

Submitted by:

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What is meant by Linguistics?

Linguistics is the scientific study of language.

The word was first used in the middle of the 19th century to emphasize the difference between a newer approach to the study of language that was then developing and the more traditional approach of philology. The differences were and are largely matters of attitude, emphasis, and purpose. The philologist is concerned primarily with the historical development of languages as it is manifest in written texts and in the context of the associated literature and culture. The linguist, though he may be interested in written texts and in the development of languages through time, tends to give priority to spoken languages and to the problems of analyzing them as they operate at a given point in time, without reference to their history. The linguist, in principle, is interested in all languages and not merely in the great literary languages of the world.

The field of linguistics

The field of linguistics may be conveniently divided in terms of three dichotomies:

- 1- **A synchronic** means the description of a language describes the language as it is at a given time;
- 2- **A diachronic** is concerned with the historical development of the language and the structural changes that have taken place in it between successive points in time.

What is the goal of Theoretical Linguistics?

The goal of theoretical linguistics is the construction of a general theory of the structure of language or of a general theoretical framework for the description of languages (there is some controversy as to the difference between these two conceptions of the subject).

What is the goal of Theoretical Linguistics?

The goal of applied linguistics is the application of the findings and techniques of the scientific study of language to a variety of practical tasks, especially to the elaboration of improved methods of language teaching.

What are meant by Microlinguistics and Macrolinguistics?

The terms microlinguistics and macrolinguistics are not yet well established, and they are, in fact, used here purely for convenience. The former refers to a narrower and the latter to a much broader view of the scope of linguistics. According to the **microlinguistic** view, languages should be analyzed for their own sake and without reference to their social function, to the manner in which they are acquired by children, to the psychological mechanisms that underlie the production and reception of speech, to the literary and the aesthetic or communicative function of language, and so on.

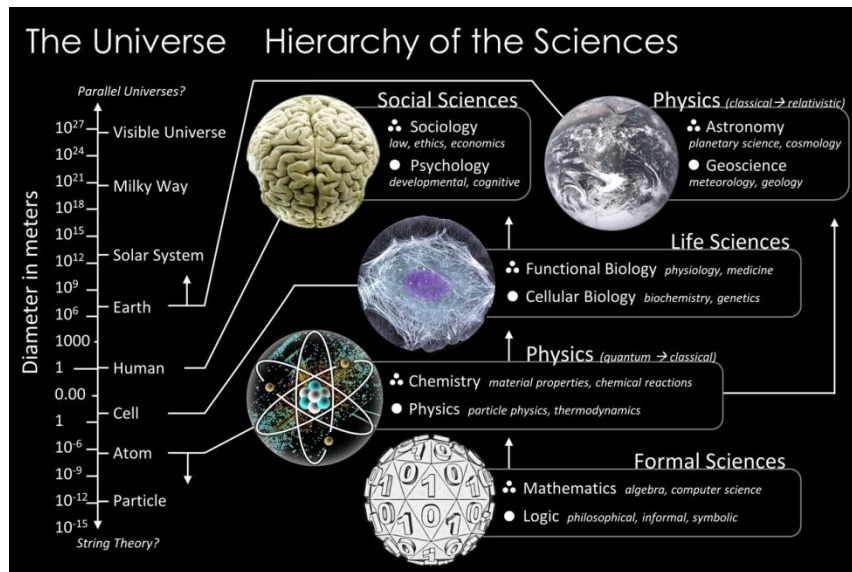
In contrast, **macrolinguistics** embraces all of these aspects of language. A number of areas within macrolinguistics have been given terminological recognition: psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, anthropological linguistics, dialectology, mathematical and computational linguistics, and stylistics. Macrolinguistics should not be identified with applied linguistics. The application of linguistic methods and concepts to language teaching may well involve other disciplines in a way that microlinguistics does not. But there is, in principle, a theoretical aspect to every part of macrolinguistics, no less than to microlinguistics.

Why Linguistics is called the scientific study of language?

The social sciences are academic disciplines that study things relating to society and human relationships. Areas like economics, anthropology, archaeology, and psychology are all social sciences. The way societies are formed, and the relationships humans form within their societies can be looked at from many different points of view.

Linguistics is called the scientific study of language because researchers take a scientific approach to studying a language. Researches within social sciences including linguistics take an unbiased, methodical approach to study and answering questions. This is why the social sciences can use the term "science". Linguistics is a social science discipline that looks at language, the differences in language between societies, how language is learned and the many different components of language. Linguistic studies help look out how language forms and functions in society, and how language changes over time.

The Science of Linguistics



Linguistics is the science of language, and linguists are scientists who apply the scientific method to questions about the nature and function of language.

Linguists conduct formal studies of speech sounds, grammatical structures, and meaning across all the world's over 6,000 languages. They also investigate the history of and changes within language families and how language is acquired when we are infants. Linguists examine the relationship between written and spoken language as well as the underlying neural structures that enable us to use language.

Clearly, many of the questions linguists pose overlap with fields in the life sciences, social sciences, and humanities, thus making linguistics a multidisciplinary field.

As a multidisciplinary field, Linguistics, attempts to understand how language is stored in the human mind/brain and how it is part of everyday human behavior through its sister fields of neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, anthropology, sociology, and computer science.

It is important to note that the term “linguist” may cause some confusion because it is known to be used differently in non-academic domains. Sometimes language experts are referred to as linguists, but those individuals do not necessarily conduct the same kind of scientific research on language as carried out by those with advanced degrees in linguistics. “Polyglot” is the term used for a person who has knowledge of multiple languages. And although it is possible for a person to be both a linguist and a polyglot, it is just as possible that a linguist speaks only one language.