Module :Anglais/ master 1 science du langage

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What is Linguistics?

Linguistics is the scientific study of human language and it structure.

Aims of linguistic theory:

What is knowledge of language? (Competence)

How is knowledge of language acquired? (Acquisition)

How is knowledge of language put to use? (Performance/language processing)

A grammar includes everything one knows about the structure of one's language:

Phonetics and Phonology (the sounds and the sound system or patterns)

Lexicon (the words or vocabulary in the mental dictionary)

Morphology (the structure of words)

Syntax (the structure of phrases and sentences and the constraints on well-formedness of sentences)

Semantics (the meaning of words and sentences)

Main branches of linguistics

- **Phonetics**
- **Phonology**
- **Morphology**
- **Syntax**
- **Semantics**
- **Pragmatics**

Phonetics

- **Phonetics studies speech sounds, including the production of speech, that is how speech sounds are actually made, transmitted and received, the description and classification of speech sounds, words and connected speech, etc.**

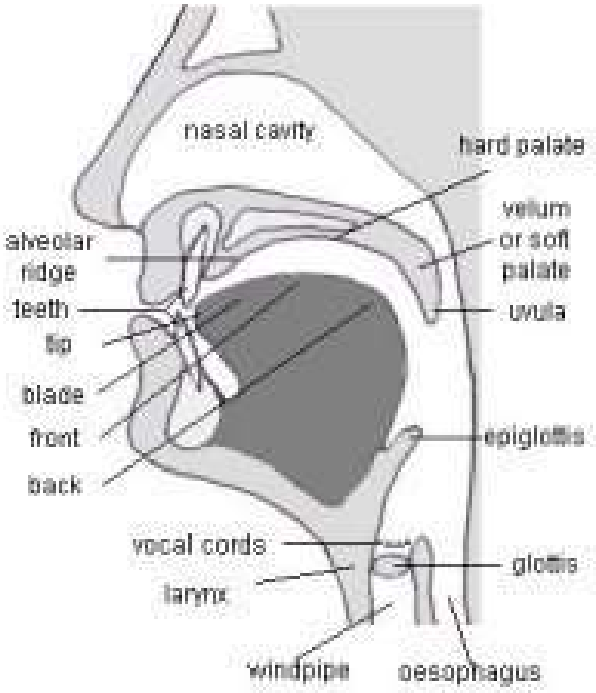
We can approach it on various levels.

At one level, speech is a matter of anatomy and physiology. We can study organs such as tongue and larynx and their functions in the production of speech.

At another level, we can focus on the speech sounds produced by these organs by identifying and classifying the individual sounds. This is the domain of articulatory phonetics

We can also investigate the properties of the sound waves — acoustic phonetics.

As speech is intended to be heard or perceived, it is therefore possible to focus on the way in which a listener analyses or processes a sound wave — auditory phonetics.



Phonology

Phonology studies the rules governing the structure, distribution, and sequencing of speech sounds and the shape of syllables. It deals with the sound system of a language by treating phoneme as the point of departure.

A phoneme is the smallest linguistic unit of sound that can signal a difference in meaning.

Morphology

Morphology is concerned with the internal organization of words. It studies the minimal units of meaning — morphemes and word- formation processes.

Although many people think of words as the basic meaningful elements of a language. many words can be broken down into still smaller units, called morphemes.

Morphemes serve different purposes. Some derive new words by changing the meaning or the part of speech; others only refine and give extra grammatical information about the already existing meaning of a word.

As morphemes are pairings of sounds with meanings, there are many complexities involved, forming a new field by the name morphophonology.

Syntax

Syntax is about principles of forming and understanding correct sentences.

The form or structure of a sentence is governed by the rules of syntax, which specify word order, sentence organization, and the relationships between words, word classes and other sentence elements.

We know that words are organized into structures more than just word order.

Semantics

Semantics examines how meaning is encoded in a language.

It is not only concerned with meanings of words as lexical items, but also with levels of language below the word and above it, e.g. meaning of morphemes and sentences.

The following are what the key concepts look like:

- **semantic components**
- **denotation of words**
- **sense relations between words such as antonymy and synonymy**

- **sense relations between sentences such as entailment and presupposition and others.**

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context. It deals with particular utterances in particular situations and is especially concerned with the various ways in which the many social contexts of language performance can influence interpretation.

In other words, pragmatics is concerned with the way language is used to communicate rather than with the way language is internally structured.