

Language

What is Language?

- **Language** – our spoken, written, or signed words and the ways we combine them to communicate meaning
- **Linguistics** – the scientific study of language

- Phonetics – study of sounds

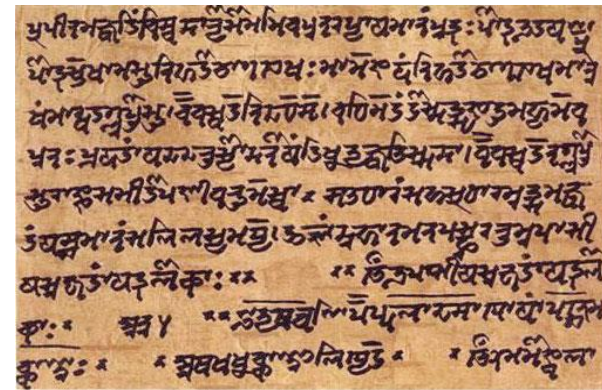
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdQwalCPNAs>

Indo-European – Vedic Sanskrit – Hindi -- Persian -- Old German – Slavic – Greek -- German – English – Norwegian – Russian

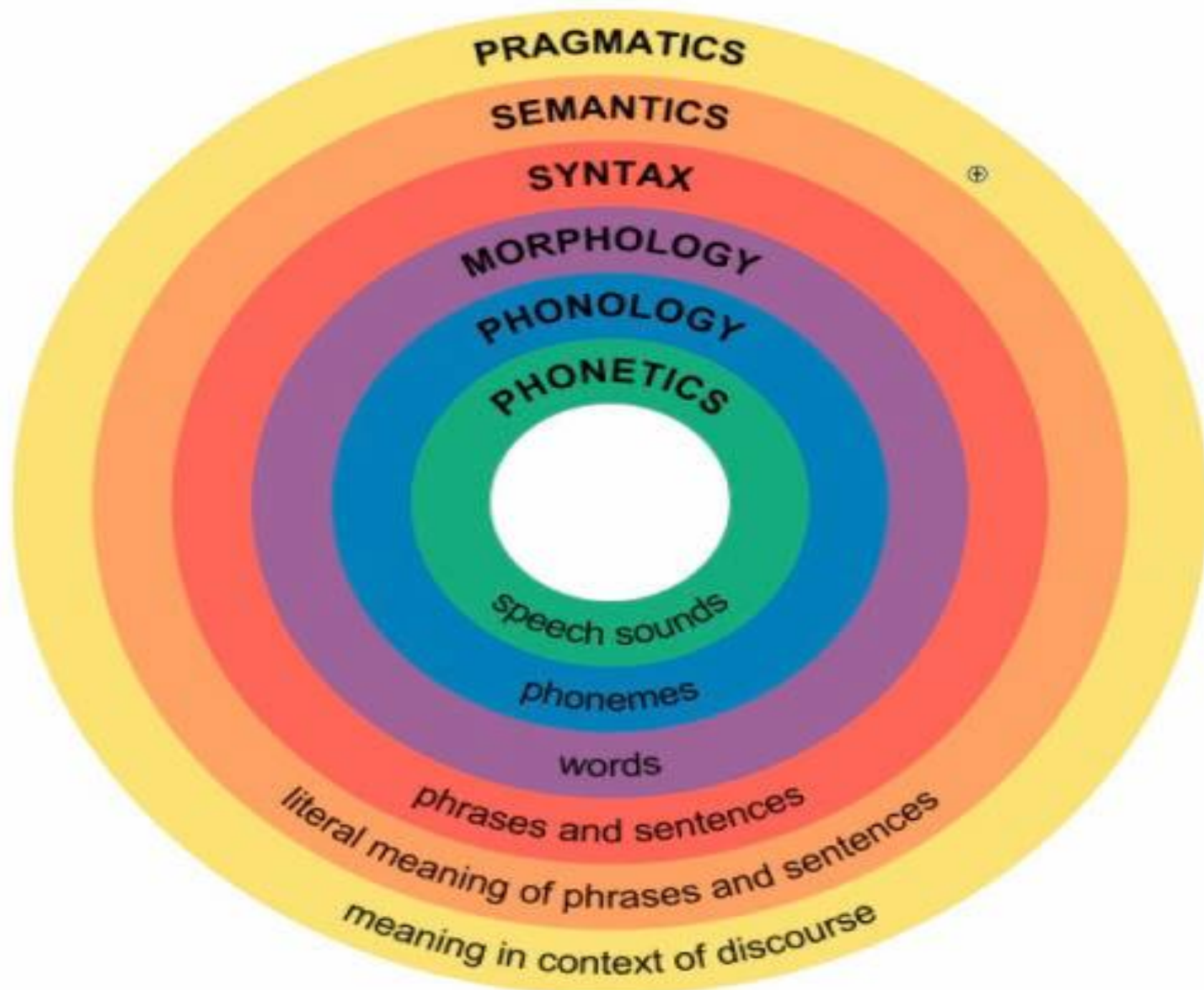
Example : *Mara* (demon) Proto-Germanic: *marōn*; Old English: *mære*; Old Norse: *mara*; German: *mahr*; Greek: *Mόρα*;

Ukrainian: *Mapa*; Russian: *Mapa*

Nightmare – *Nahtmahr*



Linguistics



Phoneme

- **Phoneme** – smallest distinctive sound unit
- **Phonology** – study of phonemes
- bat, has three phonemes b · a · t
- chat, has three phonemes ch · a · t
 - By themselves hold no meaning
 - B, a, t, ch
 - English there are 40-50 phonemes (depending on where you live)
 - !KungSan
 - Hawai'i
 - Björn

Quick Exercise

1. What is the first sound in the following words?
Easy; Judge; Civic; Psychic; Pneumonia; Pterodactyl

2. Do you think these two words share phonemes?

Cut / Cute

Apple / Apply

What is the first, medial, and last sound of “Cut?”

What is the first, medial, and last sound of “Cute?”

3. How many phonemes (sounds) are in these words?
Chin; Please; Psychology

Morpheme

- **Morpheme** -- Smallest unit that carries meaning; may be a word or part of a word (such as a prefix; suffix; root)
- **Morphology** – study of morphemes / words
- Prehistoric --
- Unhealthy --
- Capitalism --
- Gardener --
- Aqua --
- Graph --

Structuring Language

Phonemes	Basic sounds (about 40) ... <i>ea, sh.</i>
Morphemes	Smallest meaningful units (100,000) ... <i>un, for.</i>
Words	Meaningful units (290,500) ... <i>meat, pumpkin.</i>
Phrase	Composed of two or more words (326,000) ... <i>meat eater.</i>
Sentence	Composed of many words (infinite) ... <i>She opened the jewelry box.</i>

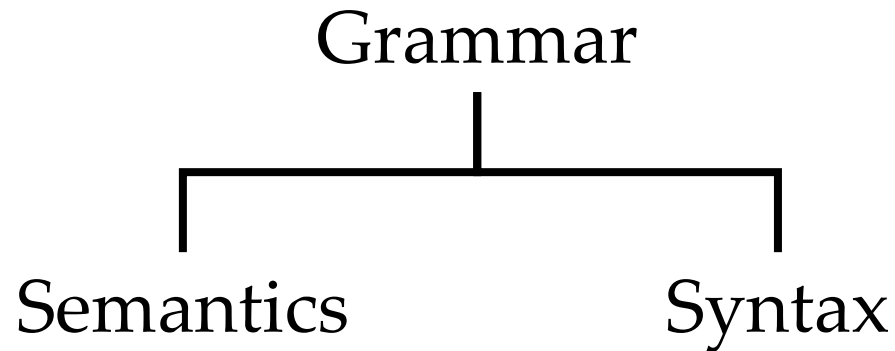
Grammar

Grammar – in a language, a system of rules that enable us to communicate with and understand others

- Spanish – Single “el”(masculine) “la” (feminine) plural “los”
- What does this tell you about romantic languages and people who speak it?

Grammar

Grammar is the system of rules in a language that enable us to communicate with and understand others.



Semantics

- **Semantics** – The set of rules in which we derive meaning from morphemes, words, and sentences in a given language; study of meaning
- Meaning depends on the word choice, the order of the words, or stress on the words
 - They were hunting dogs
 - The fish is ready to eat

Syntax

- **Syntax**: the rules of combining words into grammatically sensible sentences in a given language
- English vs Korean
 - English – There are three ducks
 - Korean -- 오리(duck) 세 (three) 마리가 있다 (There are)
 - English adjectives come before nouns
 - English – Blue Car
 - Spanish – Coche (car) Azul (blue)

Must study
Syntax I
need.



Structure of Language

- Surface structure

- How we order the sentence
- German: Gott (god) weiß (knows) ich will kein (I do not want) Engel (Angel) sein (to be)
- English: God knows I do not want to be an angel

- Deep structure

- Underlying meaning of a sentence
- I am not a good person

Structure of Language

What is different: the surface structure or the deep structure?

Disregard that last statement

Vs

The last statement must be disregarded

Universal Characteristics of Language

1. Semanticsity
2. Arbitrariness
3. Flexibility of symbols
4. Naming
5. Displacement
6. Generativity

Language Development

Children learn their native languages much before learning to add $2+2$.

We learn, on average (after age 1), 3,500 words a year, amassing 60,000 words by the time we graduate from high school.

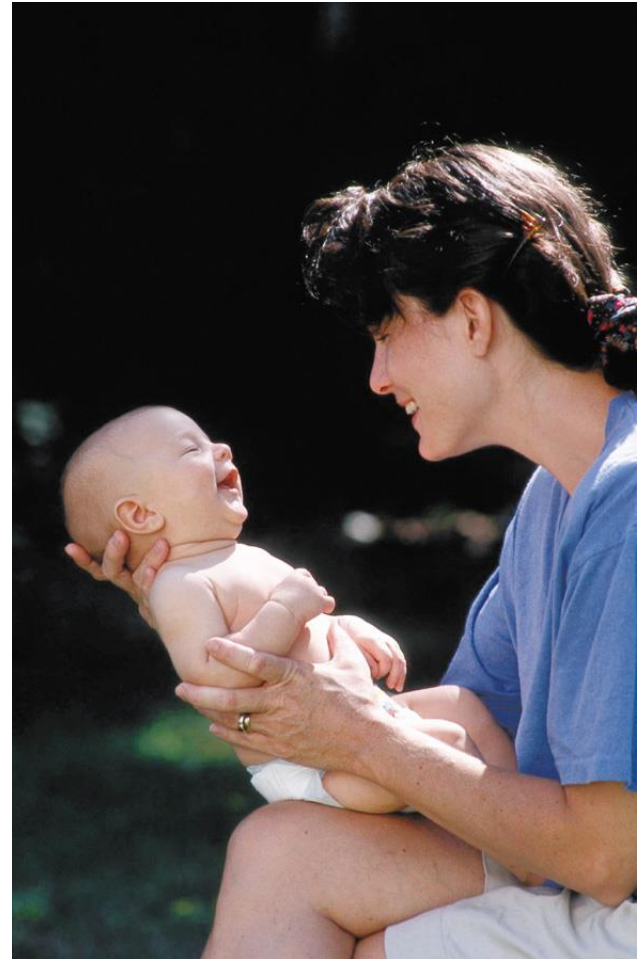


Time Life Pictures/ Getty Images

When do we learn language?

Babbling Stage:

Beginning at 4 months, the infant spontaneously utters various sounds, like *ah-goo*. Babbling is **not** imitation of adult speech.



When do we learn language?

One-Word Stage/ Holophrase stage: Beginning at or around 1 years of age and ends around 2, a child starts to speak one word at a time and is able to make family members understand him.

Babies' first demonstration of productive language occurs in this stage

The word *doggy* may mean *look at the dog out there*.

“Daddy”

“Mommy”

“Food”

When do we learn language?

Two-Word Stage: around the 2nd year a child starts to speak in two-word sentences. This form of speech is called **telegraphic speech** because the child speaks like a telegram:

“Go car,” means *I would like to go for a ride in the car.*

“Mommy mean”

“Daddy sad”



When do we learn language?

Longer phrases: After telegraphic speech, children begin uttering longer phrases (*Mommy get ball*) with syntactical sense, and by early elementary school they are employing humor.

You never starve in the desert because of all the sand-which-is there.

When do we learn language?

SUMMARY OF LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Month (approximate)	Stage
4	Babbles many speech sounds.
10	Babbling resembles household language.
12	One-word stage.
24	Two-word, telegraphic speech.
24+	Language develops rapidly into complete sentences.

OA

1. How do children pick up (learn) language?
2. How would B. F. Skinner explain language development?
3. How would Noam Chomsky explain language development?

Theories of Language Development

B.F. Skinner (Behaviorism)

- Imitation
- Association -- Classical Conditioning
- Reinforcement -- Operant Conditioning

Noam Chomsky (Biological Perspective)

- Inborn Universal Grammar (Critical Period)

Inborn Universal Grammar

- Linguist Noam Chomsky
- Language is almost entirely inborn
- Language will naturally occur
- We are hard wired to learn language
- Children acquire untaught words and grammar at a rate too high to be explained through learning
- But children do learn their environment's language

Universal Grammar

- All human languages have the same grammatical building blocks, such as nouns and verbs, subjects and objects, negations and questions.
- We all start speaking mostly in nouns
- We all follow language development stages

Statistical Learning

- Due to the frequency of exposure of language by children from their parents or caregivers, children pick up the language spoken at home.
- Children pick up the language simply by exposure
 - Repeated child directed speech
 - Children can recognize patterns and sequences



Critical Period

- Language development begins in early childhood
 - It's more effective to learn a second language during childhood
- Once the critical period is over mastering the grammar of another language is very difficult
- When a young brain does not learn language its language-learning capacity never develops.
 - Remember the case study of Genie
- No, childhood seems to represent a critical period for mastering certain aspects of language

Linguistic Determinism

- Whorf and Sapir's Linguistic Determinism

- Language determines the way we think and conceptualize the world
- The more number words there are in a language suggests greater the importance it hold in it's culture:
 - Inuit words and descriptions of snow
 - Japanese words for demons and spirits (aku, oni, yokai, ayakashi, kami, obake, tengu etc.)
 - Americans words for cars -- sedans, hatchback, pickups, truck, van, etc.
- Criticism : underestimating the extent to which thinking occurs without language.

- Linguistic relativity

- Revision of Whorf and Sapir's theory
- Language and thought have influences on each other

OA

1. Explain Noam Chomsky's theory on language
2. List and define three commonly used slangs in your generation.

- Wet – cool / attractive??????????????
- Fire – cool / attractive
- Hella!!! – a lot (many)
- That’s a mood – relating
- Slight busssdown – showing off
- Flex – showing off
- Thicc – curvy person (sexy?)
- Sister – greeting to friends?
- Shook – shocked surprised
- Wack – weird unacceptable
- Tea – gossip
- Burned or flamed on – disrespected
- Roasted -- made fun of
- Mad -- a lot of
- Coin – money
- Bread -- money

- Nocap—no lie (being honest)
- Bread – money
- Wet—cool
- Extra—over dramatic
- Yadadamean– do you understand
- Lit – fun exciting
- Hella—a lot
- Damn near – almost
- You feel me? – do you understand me?
- Sike– you thought wrong
- Juiced – hyped and excited
- Slaps – good song
- Slime – close friend

Linguistic Relativity

- Tell me popular slangs:

Trigger – when you get angry grrrr

Salty – When somebody is offended

Beef – When you have an issue with someone

Headass – Showing off

Extra – Unnecessary

Lit – Drugs/ fun time/ partying

Shook – surprised???

Succ – Oral sex

Thicc – Sexy and appealing (big)

BAE

Sus – suspicious

Throwing shade – roasting

Roasting – making fun of people

Savage – when you make fun of people

Finna – Im going to do something

YAYO – Cocaine

Drugs and partying

Making fun of people

Sex and Dating