

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. At the top, there are several overlapping, wavy lines in various shades of blue, creating a sense of movement and depth. These lines curve across the top of the slide, with some appearing as thin, light blue streaks and others as thicker, darker blue bands.

LANGUAGE

Language

- Language is fundamentally cognitive. It is:
 - Abstract
 - Often the information that is being processed and stored
 - The vehicle for other cognitive processes (problem solving, thinking)
 - The basis for human communication
 - Influential on perception processes
- Word and speech processing engages particular parts of the brain

Language

- Organized way to combine words to communicate
- Language is unique to humans
- A communication system that is learned instead of biologically inherited

Language

Language

form of spoken, written, or signed communication based on symbols

Infinite Generativity

ability to produce an endless number of meaningful sentences

Psycholinguistics

- The study of acquisition, storage, comprehension, and production of language

Four Areas Related to Psycholinguistics

- Linguistics
 - Emphasis on universals of language/Scientific study of language
- Neurolinguistics
 - Emphasis on brain changes during language use
- Sociolinguistics
 - Emphasis on relationship between language and society
- Computational linguistics
 - Emphasis on computer models of natural language

Language and Cognition

- Can you think without using language?
- Whorf's linguistic relativity hypothesize
“language determines thought”
- role of cognition in language
- role of language in cognition

Development of Language

0-6 Months	Cooing Discrimination of vowels Babbling present by 6 months
6-12 Months	Babbling expands to include sounds of spoken language Gestures used to communicate about objects First words spoken 10-13 months
12-18 Months	Understands 50+ words on average
18-24 Months	Vocabulary increases to an average of 200 words Two-word combinations
2 Years	Vocabulary rapidly increases Correct use of plurals Use of past tense Use of some prepositions
3-4 Years	Mean length of utterances increases to 3-4 morphemes in a sentence Use of "yes" and "no" questions, wh- questions Use of negatives and imperatives Increased awareness of pragmatics
5-6 Years	Vocabulary reaches an average of about 10,000 words Coordination of simple sentences
6-8 Years	Vocabulary continues to increase rapidly More skilled use of syntactical rules Conversational skills improve
9-11 Years	Word definitions include synonyms Conversational strategies continue to improve
11-14 Years	Vocabulary increases with addition of more abstract words Understanding of complex grammar forms Increased understanding of function a word plays in a sentence Understands metaphor and satire
15-20 Years	Understands adult literary works

Note: This list is meant not to be exhaustive but rather to highlight some of the main language milestones. Also keep in mind that there is a great deal of variation in the ages at which children can reach these milestones and still be considered within the normal range of language development.

Properties of Language

- Communicative
- Arbitrarily symbolic
- Generative
- Dynamic
- Structure

Communicative Property

- Language is used to communicate
- Communication has meaning
- Individuals can send and receive information

Meanings & Words

- Words do not have to look or sound like what they describe.
- Meanings in Words are arbitrary, attributive and relational as per Saussure.
- 'Calm' word in Hindi and English mean differently. Their meanings have been attributed by our ancestors recognized by us. They can be understood when we try to understand them in relation or contrast to other words.

Arbitrarily Symbolic

- No connection between symbol and concept
 - Principle of conventionality
 - “The Saussurean legacy of the arbitrariness of signs led semioticians to stress that the relationship between the signifier and the signified is *conventional* - dependent on social and cultural conventions. This is particularly clear in the case of the linguistic signs with which Saussure was concerned: a word means what it does to us only because we collectively agree to let it do so.”
(<https://www.cs.princeton.edu/~chazelle/courses/BIB/semio2.htm>)
 - Principle of contrast/
 - Different words have different meanings and can be understood only in contrast or in relation.

Generative Property of Language

- Using rules of language can create an unlimited number of new utterances (word, sound, statement, expression etc).

Dynamic Nature of Language

- Allows for new developments with the creation of new words and ideas
 - Blog
 - Online diary meant to be read by others
 - Spam has a new meaning
 - Unwanted email
 - Shut Up! Has new meaning
 - One meaning is to quit talking
 - Youth Speak for “Really?”

Parts of Language

- Phonetics – Sound of Language
- Semantics – Meaning of Language
- Semiotics – Sign or symbolic interpretation in language
- Linguistics – Interplay of words (lexis) and letters (morphemes – roots or suffix)
- Pragmatics – Our Utterances, how we posit words in context.

Structure of Language

- Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Semantics
- Pragmatics