

Linguistics 5 Notes

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1 Introduction

Characteristics of Language

Semanticity Specific signals, referred to as words, are tied to specific meanings

Arbitrariness There is no logical connection between the signal and its meaning

Discreteness Meaningful messages can be broken down into smaller, repeatable parts

Displacement Messages can refer to things outside of the current scope (time and space)

Productivity Users can understand and create never-before-head utterances

Duality of Patterning There is a pattern that governs the creation of larger meaningful messages from smaller discrete parts

Cultural Transmission Users must be exposed to the language to learn it (not inherent)

Universal Grammar Universal predisposition to expect certain properties from language

Definition 1 (Grammar). *Grammar is a linguistic rule system that governs how we organize sounds, words, and sentences.*

The structure of Linguistics

Pragmatics Study of how context contributes to meaning

Semantics Rules of how meaning is expressed

Syntax Rules of sentence formation

Morphology Rules of word formation

Phonology Rules of how sounds are combined

Phonetics The inventory of sounds available

	Descriptive Grammar		P
Definition	Describes how language is actually used in everyday life	Describes how an author	

Definition 2 (Universal Grammar). *There is an inherent blueprint for grammatical rules shared across all humans and languages, referred to as universal grammar.*

Noam Chomsky introduced the idea of generative grammar, the theory that there are a finite and precise set of rules capable to describe all possible sentences in a language.