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 vertain 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 auth

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.

2   Phonetics

Definition 3 (Phoneme). *A phoneme is the basic, distinctive unit of sound.*

2.1 Consonants

	Bilabial		Labiodental		Interdental		Alveolar		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
Stop	p	b			t		d		k	g				
Fricative			f	v	θ	ð	s	z	š	ž				
Affricate								č	ǰ					
Nasal	m						n				ŋ			
Glide		w							y		h			
Liquid							l	r						

2.2   Vowels

Other miscelaneous features:

1. Diphthongs are two part vowel sounds.

2. Aspiration is a puff of air released after a consonant.

Languages may also distinguish sounds through:

1. sound length

2. tone

3. stress

4. nasalization

3   Phonology

Phonology is the study of the rules that govern our sound system.

Note that we can think of phonemes as the way we "think" about sounds, allophones as the way we actually "say" them.

Definition 4 (Allophones). *are predictable variants of a /phoneme/, where the distinction in question does not contribute to the meaning.*

Minimal Pairs are pairs of words that share all the same characters but one and have different meanings.

Minimal Pairs?
Yes／　＼*No*
Phenome　*Pattern?*
Yes／　＼*No*
Allophone　*Phoneme*
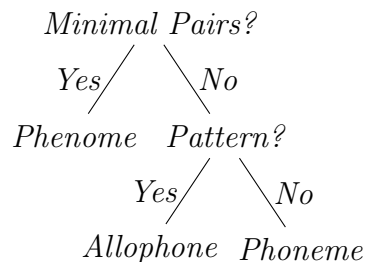
Assimilation is the morphing of phonemes to be more similar to the phonemes around them. Dissimilation is when two neighboring sounds become less alike according to some feature.

Suprasegmentals look at parts of phonology bigger than a single sound. Ex: syllables, stress, intonation.

4 Morphology

Morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning in a language.

4.1 Word Classes

Parts of Speech / Syntactic Categories

- Content Words have concrete meanings we can easily define

    - Noun
    - Verb
    - Adjective
    - Adverb

- Function Words are defined according to their use/function

    - Determiner (the, a, my, ...)
    - Numeral (one, five, ten, ...)
    - Quantifier (all, each, some, ...)
    - Pronoun (they, he, hers, ...)
    - Preposition (without, in , around, ...)
    - Conjunction (and, or, but, ...)
    - Degree Word (very, quote, so, ...)
    - Auxiliary Verb (have, be, do)
    - Modal (may, could, should, ...)

Free morphemes can stand by themselves, bound morphemes must be attached to something else. Roots form the basis of words.

Deriviational vs Inflectional Affixes. The former changes the type of word itself. The second gives more auxiliary changes (tense and the like).

Affixes:

- prefix

- suffix

- expletive infixation

5 Morphological Typology

Morphological typology is the study of the morphological similarities and differences across languages.

Analytic languages contain a lot more free morphemes/smaller words. Synthetic and polysynthetic languages contain words with more morphemes.

Fusion is when certain morphemes introduce more than one meaning to an affix.

Word formation processes

1. Compounding

2. Eponyms/Retronym

3. Blend

4. Conversion

5. Acronym

6. Clipping

7. Backformation

8. Reduplication

6 Syntax

Syntax is the system of rules governing how words and constituents are arranged into larger constituents. We can find the syntactic category of a word from its position in a sentence.

English Grammar Rules

CL	NP Aux VP
NP	(Det) (AP) N (XP)
VP	V (XP)
AP	(Deg) A
AdvP	(Deg) Adv

PP (Deg) P (XP)

Det eg: that, some, the

Aux (modal) (have) (be) (do)

Deg eg: very, so, too

Ambiguity refers to the existence of multiple possible meanings.

- Lexical Ambiguity is when multiple word meanings are allowed

- Syntactic Ambiguity is when sentence structures are allowed

Phrase Structure rule is a recursive rule.
Silent Syntax refers to parts of a sentence that are not physically there but affect the sentence.

Substitution is when we replace parts of a sentence with other parts.

Through parallelism, multiple same type clauses can be combined with coordination/conjunction words.

We take the base structure of a sentence, referred to as deep structure, then apply a series of movement rules to make a surface structure.