

# 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

Definition	Describes how language is actually used in everyday life	Describes how an author uses language
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**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	s	z		š	ž		
Affricate							č		ǰ			
Nasal	m					n					ŋ	
Glide	m	w				l			y		h	
Liquid						r						

## 2.2 Vowels

Other miscellaneous 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

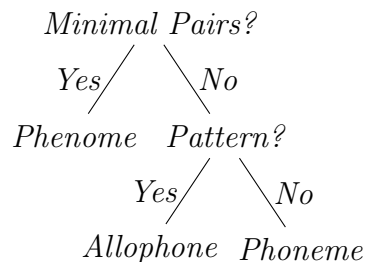
## 3 Phonology

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.*



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, quite, 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.

Derivational 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.

## 7 Semantics

Language follows a series of meaning rules. Sentences that break this are anomalous.

Lexical semantics provides us with more information on the conventions of word meanings. Semantic fields are subcategories based on semantic characteristics.

Words with related meanings are synonymous to polysemous. Words with opposing meanings are antonyms to homonyms.

There are semantic shifts in connotation and denotation through time.

Figurative language is deeply interconnected with semantics. There is still much intellectual discourse and research on all of this.

## 7.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is the study of meaning with context. This is the utterance meaning counterpart to literal meaning.

Sentences may be propositions that have a truth condition - they are either true or false regardless of context.

Analytic and synthetic sentences must be true from linguistic and real world facts. Contradictions are not true.

Speech Act explores meaning and actions. Utterances correspond to direct and indirect speech acts based on whether the intent is aligned with the utterance. These can be broken down into the following categories:

1. Interrogative: Question
2. Imperative: Command
3. Declarative: Statement

Acts can be broken down into:

1. Locutionary: The literal meaning of the utterance
2. Illocutionary: The act performed by the utterance (inferences included)
3. Perlocutionary: The effect had on the audience

Grice's maxims of cooperative conversation

1. Maxim of Quantity
2. Maxim of Quality
3. Maxim of Relevance
4. Maxim of Manner

Historical Linguistics and Sociolinguistics are related topics that stem from language change and variation.

Typically, linguists define dialects as mutually intelligible but with systematic grammatical differences. Languages are mutually unintelligible.