

ITL-1 Tutorial 1

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7th Dec 2021

Points to cover

- any doubts
- sign: signifier signified - no logical connection but onomatopoeic is logical
- behaviourist(tabula rasa - blank state) vs constructivist- chomsky - innate - universal - acq language by imitation(experience) vs born with blueprint of lang.
- descriptive vs prescriptive
- any difficult/new terms in class? deixis,disambiguation, using the context, world knowledge etc etc
- synchronic diachronic
- syntagmatic paradigmatic

Sign - related to arbitrariness

- Why (general) words are called so? - computer(compute?), mountain, books,etc etc
- Reality pre-exists language
- All other logic arise from this arbitrariness. Like computer, mountaineer, etc. There has to be an end(leaf) node - arbitrariness
- Sign: Not a single but a double entity
- Signifier + Signified.
- Signifier: the sounds/letters/words
- Signified: the conceptual meaning of it

Arbitrariness: No logic in choosing a signifier such that we get the required signified. There may be some relations/some history behind the naming, but ultimately we will find arbitrariness.

Onomatopoeic words

- Exception to the previous thought
- ‘Hiss’, ‘bhow-vow’, ‘tap-tap krte hue nal se pani gir rha tha’
- Onomatopoeic word related to a concept may not be same across all language - very observable in hindi vs english: bow-vow vs bhou-bhou. Or cuckdoo-koo...boom vs dham

On the same note of Ferdinand de Saussure

Study of Language divided into 2: Synchronic vs Diachronic

Synchronic - study of linguistic elements at a particular moment, usually present

Diachronic - study of language change over time - evolution

Another parameter for study of language

Syntagmatic vs paradigmatic

Denotes relationship b/w 2 or more linguistic features used sequentially to make well formed structure

Vs

Denotes relationship b/w a set of linguistic items that may form mutually exclusive choices in that particular syntactic role. Ex: “an interesting book” vs “a boring book”

A syntagmatic relationship involves a sequence of signs that together create meaning. A paradigmatic relationship involves signs that can replace each other, usually changing the meaning with the substitution

			<i>syntagmatic</i>			
	The	cat	sat	on	the	mat.
<i>paradigmatic</i>	His	dog	slept	under	that	table.

Image source: <https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/sociology-and-social-reform/sociology-general-terms-and-concepts/paradigmatic-and-syntagmatic>

Chomsky - innateness - constructivist vs behaviourist

- We can think of UG as the basic blueprint that all languages follow. It specifies the different components of the grammar and their relations, how the different rules of these components are constructed, how they interact, and so on.
- There are rules of particular languages, such as English, Swahili, and Zulu, that form part of the individual grammars of these languages, and then there are rules that hold in all languages - linguistic universals(may check greenberg)

- HEAD START as suggested by Noam Chomsky. It every child(human) is born with a common Universal Grammar which helps him to acquire a language depending on the stimulus. Basically it means that every child has a Language Acquisition Device(LAD) that helps him set the parameter setting(word order) and construct a basic conceptual framework

VS

- Humans born with blank mind - 'tabula rasa'. Whatever a child learns is due to the stimulus and response(environment)

- One rapidly learns language before age 3-4 even though not explicitly taught.
- Sign Language
- Certain part of brain tend to have certain functions ...just like in some illnesses, if certain part of brain is damaged, then particular properties of language is lost by him/her.

Disambiguity, deixis, context, world/shared knowledge

- Shobhit shot Raju. He was in the shop yesterday
- Shobhit is a habitual criminal offender whereas Rohit is a good boy. He shot Raju.
- Shobhit shot Raju. He had got the gun illegally.
- Shobhit shot Raju. Within seconds his pulse dropped to zero.

- Light blue shirt

Polysemy, Homonymy.