

Tutorial 1

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# Lecture	
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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.

Example relating to point 3 - 'cat' is made up of 'c' 'a' 't' are the signifiers, 'cat' is the sign. The letters are what we physically perceive, but we also perceive the meaning behind it that is the actual cat.

Any word we see has two dimensions to it: One is what we visualize or see, the other is the meaning we are perceiving in our mind. What we see is the signifier - the concept of the thing we see. The meaning we perceive is the signified or the meaning the word is trying to express.

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

			<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->

Syntagmatic denotes the relationship between 2 or more linguistic features used sequentially to make well formed structures

vs

Paradigmatic denotes relationship between a set of linguistic terms that may form mutually exclusive choices in that particular syntactic role, e.g. '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.

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 sme 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.

Note: For every topic, remember that you CAN'T skip reading the book.

Also consider reading up on Sapir Whorf vs Noam Chomsky's words