

Lecture 1

- ❖ Definition of communication by Oxford English Dictionary:
 - Oxford English dictionary defines communication as a transmission or exchange of information, knowledge, or ideas.
- ❖ Michael Tomasello(American Linguist and Psychologist) breaks communication into 2 parts:
 - communicative display
 - communicative signals
- ❖ Definition of communicative display by Michael Tomasello:
 - Prototypically physical characteristics that in some way affect the behaviour of others, such as large horns which deter competitors or bright colours which attract mates.
- ❖ Definition of Reflexive behaviours by Michael Tomasello:
 - Invariably evoked by particular stimuli or emotional states and over which the individual has no voluntary control.
- ❖ Definition of communicative signals by Michael Tomasello:
 - Communicative signals are chosen and produced by individual organisms flexibly and strategically for particular social goals, adjusted in various ways for particular circumstances.
- ❖ Definition of 'language' by the Oxford English Dictionary:
 - The system of spoken or written communication used by a particular country, people, community, etc., typically consisting of words used within a regular grammatical and syntactic structure.
- ❖ FLB(Ability to produce Human Language) is constituted of 3 different components:
 - Sensory-motor system
 - Conceptual-intentional system
 - Faculty of Language in the Narrow sense(FLN)
- ❖ Definition of Sensory-motor system
 - It is basically all the physiological and neurological components of our body that aids in articulation and perception of speech sounds. This would include things like our vocal tracts and auditory system.
- ❖ Definition of the conceptual-intentional system:
 - It deals with our ability to form ideas or conceptualise information or theorise certain knowledge
- ❖ Definition of FLN:
 - FLN is a computational system that generates internal representations and maps them into the sensory-motor interface by the phenological system, and into the conceptual-intentional interface by the semantic system.
- ❖ Difference between the communicative display and communicative signals:

Communicative Display	Communicative Signals
Not generated with a conscious intention.	Are generated with an intention

Are not in our control. We cannot strategically manipulate them.	Can be strategically manipulated according to the social context we are in
The 'ethical' viewpoint can be largely ignored as the communicative display is not under our control.	Our communication has certain repercussions. This introduces an ethical viewpoint as our communication largely happens in a social context. Since communicative signals can be controlled by us, we need to take care of their ethical nature and the repercussions they might produce.

- ❖ The presence of FLN makes Human communication and language unique. Although the other 2 systems are present in the animal world, there is a mismatch between these 2 systems in the bodies of other animals.
- ❖ Definition of recursion:
 - The word recursion is associated with the root word 'recur' which means to repeat. Recursion happens when you embed or enfold something within something else which has the same nature, and this is what results in the recurrence.
 - FLN basically carries out recursion.
- ❖ Design features of Human language by Charles Francis Hockett (originally he identified 13 features):
 - **Duality**
 - It means the ability to use various combinations of a limited number of meaningless elements to produce a large number of meaningful elements.
 - **Displacement**
 - This refers to our ability to talk about things and events that are not happening in the present time or the present space within which we are located.
 - **Productivity**
 - It is the ability to use language to say anything that we desire including things that we may never have said or heard before.