

Introduction to Linguistics (CL1.102)

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Taught by Prof. Aditi Mukherjee

Meaning

Various examples (Ogden and Richards' 22 definitions) show that there is disagreement over the most basic of terms. There is no unique way to refer to objects/events in the real world.

Words are always evolving new nuances and connotations; for example, *ajñātavāsam* in Telugu came to assume the meaning of “hiding underground (from the Naxals)”.

Meaning doesn't always lie in words, for instance in metaphorical speech.

The Modern Approach

There is no escape from language; the definitions of linguistic expressions are all in terms of other linguistic expressions. There is no correspondence with anything outside language.

Therefore, we study relations within language – lexical semantics and grammatical relations.