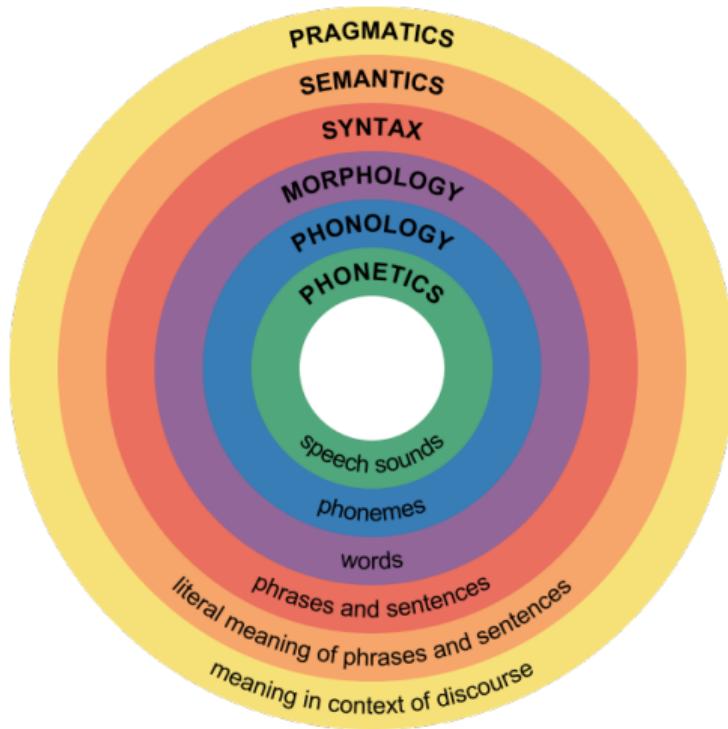


# Intro to General Linguistics

Fachschaft General & Computational Linguistics  
**University of Tübingen**

WS 2025/26  
Pre-course

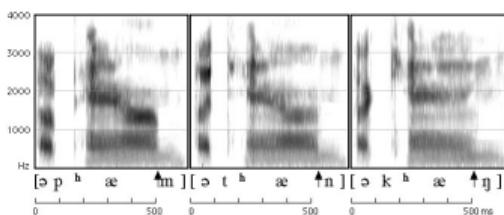
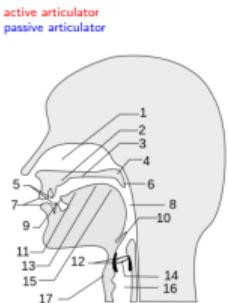
# Subdisciplines



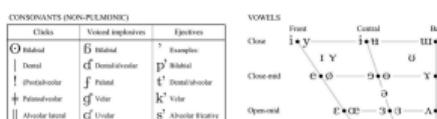
# Phonetics

the study of how humans produce and perceive sounds

- ① Nasal Cavity
  - ② Alveolus
  - ③ Hard Palate (Palatum)
  - ④ Soft Palate (Velum)
  - ⑤ Teeth (Dentes)
  - ⑥ Uvula
  - ⑦ Lips (Labia)
  - ⑧ Pharynx
  - ⑨ Tip of the Tongue
  - ⑩ Epiglottis
  - ⑪ Blade of Tongue
  - ⑫ Vocal Cords
  - ⑬ Tongue Blade
  - ⑭ Glottis
  - ⑮ Tongue Root
  - ⑯ Wind Pipe (Trachea)



THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (revised to 2020)										ΦΦΦ-2020
CONSONANTS (PULMATIC)										
Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Volar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Gloss
Plosive	p b		t d	ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ	χ	ɸ	
Nasal	m	n̪	n	n̪	j̪	ŋ	N			
Trill	B		r					R		
Tap or Flap		v̪	r̪		ʈ̪					
Fricative	f β	v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	s z	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	h ʕ
Lateral				ɬ	ɺ					
Approximant						ɻ				
Lateral approximant						ɺ	ɻ			



<b>OTHER SYMBOLS</b>	<b>Open:</b>	
<b>M</b> Vowelless labial-velar fricative	<b>C Z</b> Alveolo-palatal fricatives	
<b>W</b> Vowel labial-velar approximant	<b>J</b> Vowel alveolar lateral flap	

*\*Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.*

<b>V</b>	Vocal fold-labial-aperture	<b>J</b>	Simultaneous J and X
<b>V</b>	Vocal fold-expiratory closure		
<b>V</b>	Vocal expiratory closure		
<b>V</b>	Vocal glottal closure		
<b>V</b>	Vocal closure		
<b>DIACRITICS</b>			
<b>V</b>	n d	b d	t d
<b>V</b>	s t	θ ð	ʃ ʒ
<b>D</b>	Aspirated	Liquidostridial	Lateral
	t <sup>h</sup> d <sup>h</sup>	θ <sup>h</sup> ð <sup>h</sup>	ʃ <sup>h</sup> ʒ <sup>h</sup>
<b>M</b>	More rounded	Latitudinal	Nasalized
	ɔ	t̪ l̪	ɛ
<b>L</b>	Less rounded	Palatalized	At oral release
	ɔ̄	t̪l̪ d̪	d̪
<b>A</b>	Advanced	Vocalized	Lateral release
	ʌ	t̪v̪ d̪v̪	d̪
<b>R</b>	Retarded	Pharyngealized	No audible release
	ɛ	t̪v̪ d̪v̪	
<b>D</b>	Constrained	↔ Vocalized or pharyngealized	
	ɛ̄		
<b>M</b>	Mid-constrained	Retard	↔ vowel-reduced closure
	ɛ̄	t̪v̪	(t̪v̪)
<b>S</b>	Stressed	Lowered	↔ vowel-tilted approximation
	ɪ ʊ		
<b>N</b>	Non-syllabic	Advanced Tongue Root	
	ɛ̄		
<b>K</b>	Khronicity	Retracted Tongue Root	
	ɜ̄ ə̄		

Some diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, e.g. ۱



# Phonology

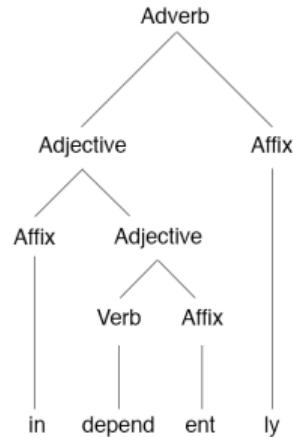
the study of how languages systematically organise their sounds / sound systems of languages,  
the patterns of how sounds work together within a system

		Labial	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal		m <sup>[a]</sup>		n <sup>[a]</sup>			ŋ	
Plosive	fortis	p		t	tʃ		k	
	lenis	b		d	dʒ		g	
Fricative	fortis	f	θ <sup>[b]</sup>	s	ʃ		(x) <sup>[c]</sup>	h <sup>[d]</sup>
	lenis	v	ð <sup>[b]</sup>	z	ʒ			
Approximant				l <sup>[a]</sup>	r <sup>[e]</sup>	j <sup>[fl]</sup>	w <sup>[g]</sup>	

e.g. the consonants found in most dialects of English

# Morphology

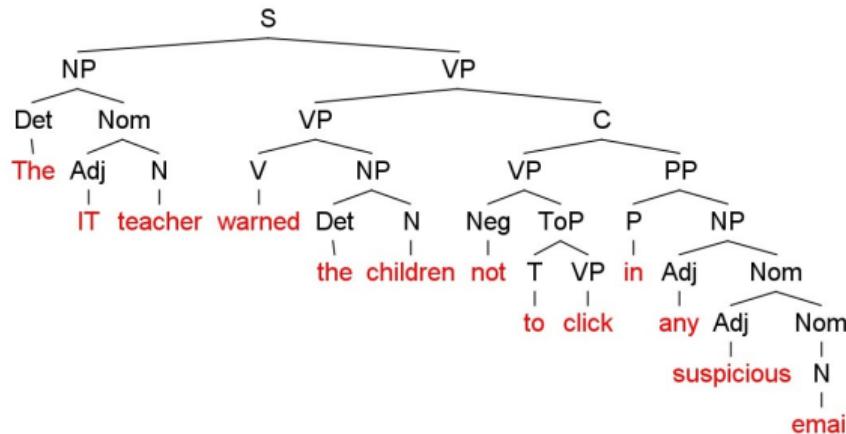
the study of words, how they are formed, and how they relate to one another within a language



e.g. morphology tree of a word

# Syntax

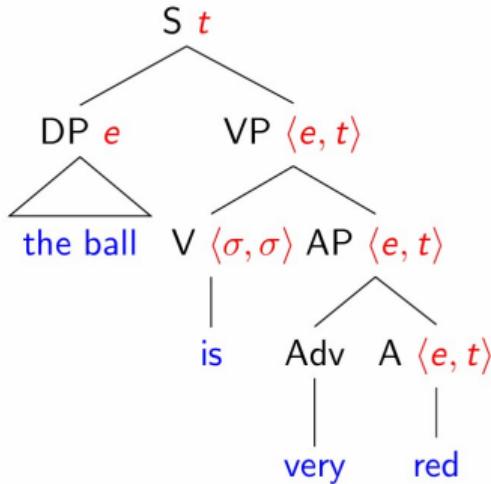
the study of how words combine to form larger units such as phrases and sentences



e.g. syntax tree of a sentence

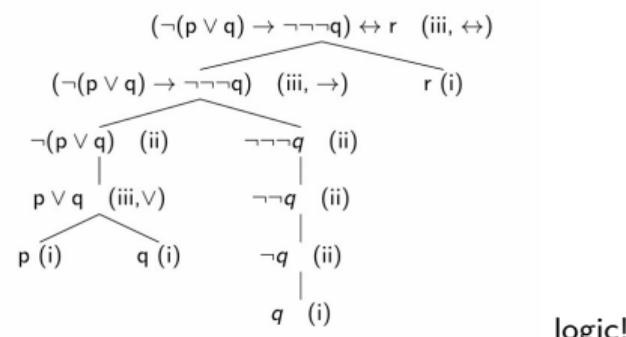
# Semantics

the study of the meaning of natural language



'I shot an elephant in my pyjamas.'

Premise 1	<b>Either Joe is crazy or Joe is lying.</b>
Premise 2	<b>It is not the case that Joe is crazy.</b>
Conclusion	<b>Therefore, Joe is lying.</b>
Premise 1	<b>Either x or y.</b>
Premise 2	<b>It is not the case that x.</b>
Conclusion	<b>Therefore, y.</b>



logic!

# Pragmatics

the study of the meaning of natural language in use

## The Maxim of Quality

Do not say what you believe to be false

Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence

## The Maxim of Quantity

Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange)

Do not make your contribution more informative than is required

## The Maxim of Relation

Be relevant

## The Maxim of Manner

Avoid obscurity of expression

Avoid ambiguity

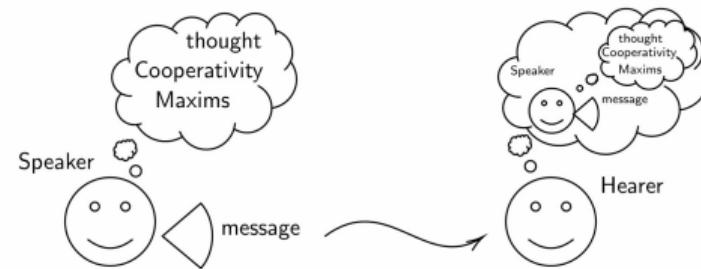
Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity)

Be orderly

*'This traffic jam is really making my day!'*

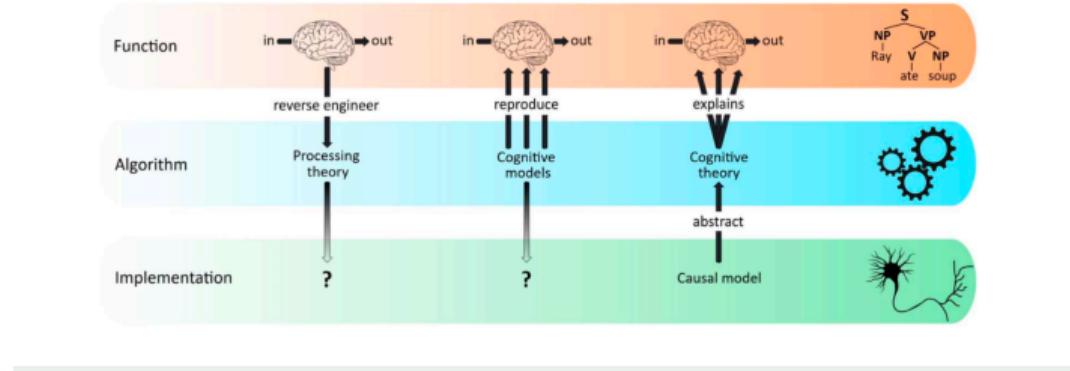
- *Jane no longer writes fiction.*
  - Presupposition: Jane once wrote fiction.
- *Have you stopped eating meat?*
  - Presupposition: you had once eaten meat.
- *Have you talked to Hans?*
  - Presupposition: Hans exists.

## Grice's inferential model



# Other fields

- ▶ Psycholinguistics
- ▶ Sociolinguistics
- ▶ Dialectometry
- ▶ Lexicography
- ▶



Non-standard dialect (associated with lower classes)	Standard dialect (associated with higher classes)
It looks like it ain't gonna rain today.	It looks as if it isn't going to rain today. <sup>[20]</sup>
You give it to me yesterday.	You gave it to me yesterday. <sup>[21]</sup>
Y'gotta do it the right way.	You have to do it the right way. <sup>[22]</sup>