

# Language and Society

## Lec-4

18/08/2022

- **What do you understand by the word grammar?**
  - In linguistics, the **grammar** of a natural language is its set of structural constraints on speakers' or writers' composition of clauses, phrases, and words. The term can also refer to the study of such constraints, a field that includes domains such as phonology, morphology, and syntax, often complemented by phonetics, semantics, and pragmatics. There are currently two different approaches to the study of grammar: traditional grammar and theoretical grammar.
  - Morphology syntax phonology semantics
  - Phonology like all the possible sounds in the grammar
  - Morphology like affixes, infixes, suffixes and other inflectional morphemes which the number gender tense
- **What according to you are grammatical constructs of your language? Give some constructs apart from syntax.**
  - Constructs is what is extra in the language apart from syntax
  - Hindi has inflectional for verbs which define the gender and the number of the people participating in that verb act
  - The pronouns have social hierarchy based on respect on respect and status
- **Differentiate b/w prescriptive and descriptive grammar.**
  - **Prescriptive grammar** is what is taught in school, that is if the grammar is wrong, if the sentence formation is wrong, how should the sentences be formed etc. . It tells(prescribes) how rules of grammar should be used. When a doctor gives you a prescription for medication, it often includes directions about how you should take your medication as well as what you should not do when taking your medication.
  - **Descriptive grammar**, on the other hand, focuses on describing the language as it is used, not saying how it should be used.
  - Example, `“To boldly go where no man has gone before” and would try to describe how the mental grammar can cause that ordering of words, rather than saying that the surface form is faulty due to prescriptive rules (which would require the sentence “To go boldly where no man has gone before”)
- **What do you understand by linguistic theory?**
  - Linguistic Theory was formed by Noam Chomsky who described language as having a grammar that is largely independent of language use. Unlike Behavioral Theory, Linguistic Theory argues that language acquisition is governed by universal, underlying grammatical rules that are common to all typically developing humans.

- **What is langue and parole?**

- **Langue** (language) is the language system shared by a speech community, what is common knowledge shared by the society of those language speakers. Example hindi speakers use “aap” for people higher than us, thus the hindi people.
- Whereas **parole** (speech) signifies the act of speaking in actual situations by an individual.

- **What is contrastive distribution? Does it go beyond just aspiration and allophones?**

- Pin phon
- Yes in morpheme level like, maine mujhne.
- In English the morphemes “er” and “more” are there (borrowed from French) for different types of syllabic words.

- **Differentiate b/w dialect/language variation and parole.**

- Parole is the variation which the person adds to his language
- Dialect/Language variation when the language depends on the region, the dialect of the language changes as we go to different

- **How do you get the "true" understanding of the nature of language?**

- Toh nature of language ki true understanding jo hai comprises of
  - Grammar : word formation, ITL1 ITL2
  - Communicative Competence : if we are able to communicate properly in that language for that we require the background knowledge cultural societal knowledge of the people who speak that language

- **Why can't linguists ignore variation?**

- Earlier the linguists were considered as deviation from the true language and thus they used to ignore it.
- But
- They are part of language and cannot be discarded since they are not different from language (like dialect) they are part of functioning of language
- Since the languages change and then become that new true language.
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- **What is communicative competence?**

- Cultural regional knowledge
- If you know how to speak in a situation, how to address people

- **What is variation? How is it different from free variation?**

- Free variation of phonemes are those sounds which can be used interchangeably.
- Variation is changes that take place in a language. (like borrowing of lexicon and concepts from the other languages)
- Like the concept of “ation” to convert noun to verb.

- **List different kinds of variation seen in language (discussed in class).**

- Ss

- What are the 3 social communities as described by Hudson? (look up)
  - Dss
- Give 3 non-grammatical constructs in your language which you use/have come across.
  - Main ghar jaara
  - Long time no see
  - Teko meko
  - How ya doin
  - Mother fucka
  - I aint got no money
- What are social categories?
  - S