Verbal Messages

Language

- **Purpose: We use language to…**
- **label—**
- tennis, football, golf
- **Compare, judge, define-**
- which is better or worse-- Close up one, So you think you can dance
- **Learn–** discuss and learn from experience of others—take a course, attend a lecture, surfing the net etc.

What is language?

- It is a system of symbols used by people to communicate.

- Verbal Language communicates thoughts and feelings

- Verbal languages consists of **lexicon, phonology and syntax and grammar.**

Lexicon

- 1. In general, a lexicon is a group of words that make up a language.
- For example, each of the words in this sentence are just a few of the words that make up the English lexicon.
- A lexicon can also be a branch of knowledge that stores all known words of a particular subject.
- For example, the computer dictionary is considered a lexicon of all computer related terms.

Language -fundamentals

- Language is based on <u>exchange of utterances</u>.

- <u>Utterance</u> –This is a unit of speech that is preceded by silence and followed by silence or a change of speaker.

- **Phonology**:   The sounds used to pronounce words.

- **Syntax and grammar**—rules for combining words to form sentences and larger forms of expressions.

Characteristics of Language

- Arbitrary— there is not necessarily a literal connection between a word and the thing it represents.
- Do the following words sound or look
-         perro   chien   hund   canis
- dog

Language is Abstract

- relating to or involving general ideas or qualities rather than specific people, objects, or actions.
- Den
- – cave, hole, hideaway, hole
- Pen
- – ballpoint, gel-pen, glitter pen, Parker, Mont Blank.

Language –Changes over time

- New word--Voluntourism What people do when they help out at an African orphanage, save elephants and do something "amazing" for charity, when really they just need an excuse to go on another holiday.

- FOMO --Fear of missing out – triggered perhaps by seeing the voluntourist's snaps.

- Lipstick--- Not something you hastily apply in a taxi but now slang for the treble 20 on a dartboard.

- Freegan ---Someone who eats thrown away food as they hate waste.

- Ecotown ---. New towns designed to have minimum impact on environment. (Probably full of freegans)
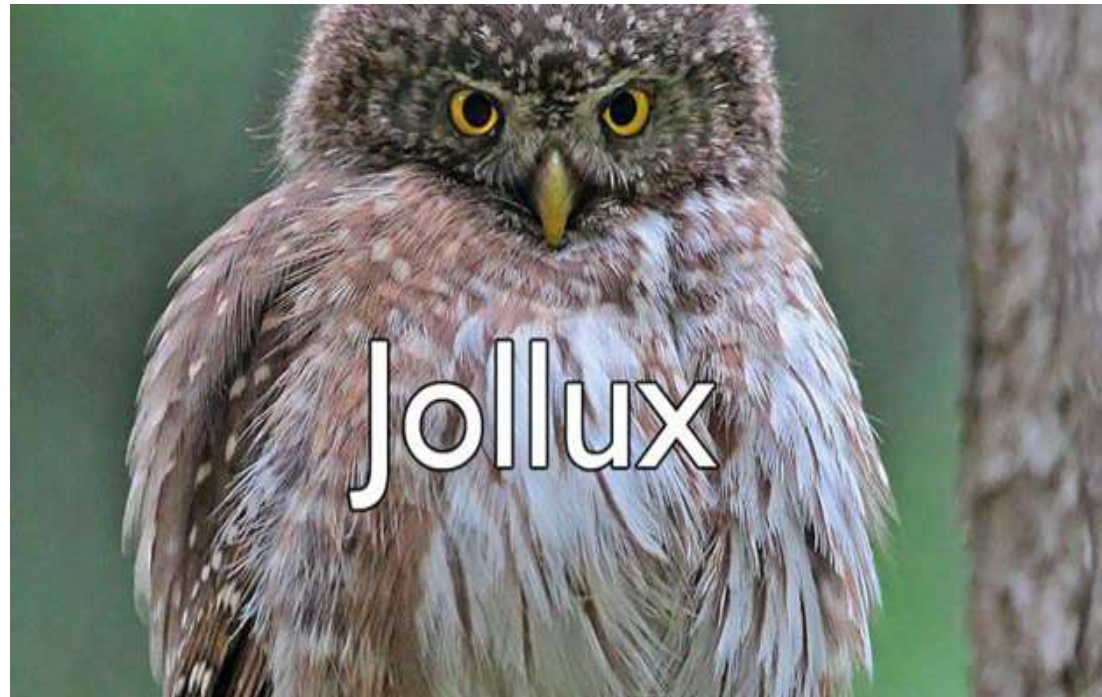
- E-cigarette Cig-shaped battery powered device containing nicotine.

- Fratty--- American term for rowdy college fraternities.

- Twitterati--- People on Twitter with more followers than you've had hot dinners who bung up your Twitter feed with constant tweeting.

- Webisode--- Short video of a TV programme shown online.

- Hyperloca-- Really, really local.

- Crowdfund-- To fund a project from lots of people who usually donate small sums online.

- Cake pop-- Small, round piece of cake coated in icing, chocolate or other decorations and fixed on a stick to make it look like a lollipop.

Obsolete– Jollux

- Meaning: Slang term for a fat person.
- Origin: 1780s
- As in: Time to go on a diet, I'm getting to be a right jollux.

Jollux

- Meaning: To have a paralyzing or mesmerizing effect on someone.
- Origin: Early 17th century
- As in: Don't look into his eyes. He's so charismatic, you'll be gorgonized.

Change of Meaning

- Bad, wicked----now means good

Semantics

- The branch of linguistics and logic concerned with **meaning**.

- Semantic Meaning Based on the word and how they are combined into meaningful phrases, sentences and larger units of expressions

Relationship between language and meaning

- Meaning derived from the words themselves and how they are arranged into sentences.

- The size and accuracy of our vocabulary limits us to express our thoughts and feelings and to understand others.

Identifying meaning of words

- A word has two types of meaning, so identifying the meaning is tricky

- Denotation– direct explicit meaning of word in a dictionary. The definitions may vary from one dictionary to the other.

- Connotation: hidden meaning. We associate various words to certain meaning.
- Black
- —evil
- Green
- – new life, young
- Home
- – safety, security, love

- Seen at a pizza shop - 7 days without pizza makes one weak.
- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
- Diet slogan: Are you going the wrong weigh?
- The best way to communicate with a fish is to drop them a line.
- Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

Semantics

Improving Semantics

- **Use specific language:** precise words that clarify semantic meaning by narrowing what is understood from a general category to a specific item.

- example: Everyone loves <u>rich food</u>.

Every body likes <u>kacchi biriyani</u>

Use concrete Language

- This explains semantic meaning by appealing to the senses----sight, sound, taste, touch and smell.
- Instead of saying – When you go out on to the roads of Dhaka, there is usually a smell.
- When you go out on to the roads of Dhaka, there is usually a stink/ odor/ stench.

- Instead of saying -The little girl was wearing a pretty dress
- The little girl was wearing a red cotton dress with frills and lace.

Use Familiar Language.

- We have to use words our listeners will understand.

- We can use jargon and slang only when we know the meaning will be completely clear to the recipient when we use it for the first time.

- Over use of acronyms and abbreviations spoil the understanding.

Use Descriptive Details and Examples

- Explanations and descriptions improve semantic meaning.

- Muna is a wonderful person.

- She is very helpful. She regularly donates money to charity and is always ready to help when anyone is in trouble.

Demonstrate Linguistic Sensitivity

- This means you have to use words that include all and reveal respect to others.

- A cleaner should check to see if she has cleaned properly.

- Cleaners should check to see if they have cleaned properly.

Pragmatics

- Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics, which is the **study of language**.
- Pragmatics focuses on conversational implicature, <u>which is a process in which the speaker implies and a listener infers</u>.

- pragmatics studies language that is not directly spoken. Instead, the speaker hints at or suggests a meaning, and the listener assumes the correct intention

- In a sense, pragmatics is seen as an understanding between people to obey certain rules of interaction.

- In everyday language, the meanings of words and phrases are constantly implied and not explicitly stated.

- In certain situations, words can have a certain meaning. You might think that words always have a specifically defined meaning, but that is not always the case. Pragmatics studies how words can be interpreted in different ways based on the situation.

- How are you today?

Guidelines from improving pragmatics

- 1. Tell the truth.
- This guideline states that we should say things that we believe to be true with enough evidence to support it.
Example: "Our class starts promptly at 12:30 p.m."

2. Provide the right amount of information

- To cooperate with our conversational partner, we give the right amount of information.

-   Example: "I let the dog out an hour ago."

- Example that violates the Quantity Maxim: --

    ---"I let the dog out 54 minutes ago, but he looked like he didn't want to go out and went out anyways. It seemed like he was cold out there, but it's not as cold as it was yesterday so he should have been fine..."

- **3. Relate what you say to the topic being discussed**
- This guideline directs us to <u>link our messages to the purpose/topic of the conversation</u> and to <u>interpret other's messages as though they are relevant to the conversation</u> too.
Example:

Person 1: "Who's going to make dinner tonight?"

Person 2: "I have a meeting at the library this evening."

- Person 1 correctly interpreted Person 2's message because he/she assumed it was relevant to figuring out who will make dinner.

4. Acknowledge when you message violates a guideline

- This is a useful tip for helping our conversational partner interpret our message correctly.
  Examples: "This is off-topic but.." or "I'm not sure if this is accurate, but a friend told me..."

5. Assume the best first:

- Rely on the cooperative principle when interpreting violations of the maxims. Sometimes, we intentionally violate a maxim to get our point across.
Example:
A teenager says: "Mom, I'm going to a party tonight!"

His/her mom replies: "That's funny, I thought you agreed to babysit your younger sister tonight."

Linguistics

- The scientific study of language and its structure, including the study of morphology, syntax, phonetics, and semantics.

- Specific branches of linguistics include sociolinguistics, dialectology, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, historical-comparative linguistics, and applied linguistics.

- **Syntax---**
- the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language.
- "the syntax of English"

- **Lexical –**
- of or relating to the words or vocabulary of a language.

Sociolinguistics

- The study of language in relation to social factors, including differences of regional, class, and occupational dialect, gender differences, and bilingualism

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