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01 - Introduction to Linguistics

Nick Riches

Newcastle University

September 27, 2019

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Him go there

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FS 16

Why SLTS need to know about linguistics

1. **Diagnose** language impairments
2. Identify **targets** for therapy
3. Devise **new** therapies

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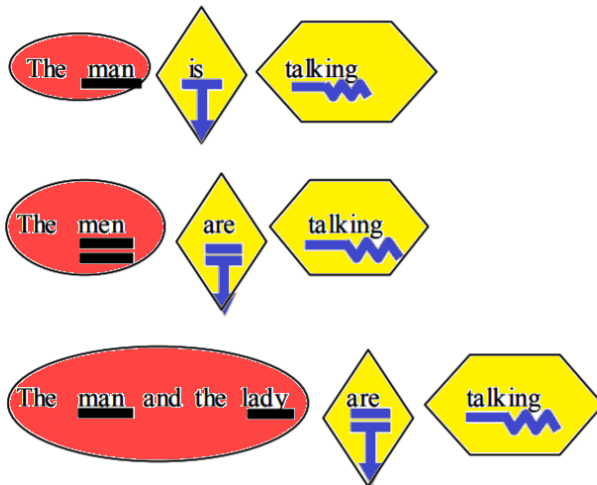
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Susan Ebbel's shape coding



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The study of language, consisting of 4 subdomains

1. syntax: language structure
2. semantics: linguistic meaning
3. phonology: the sound system of language
4. pragmatics: language in context

What is syntax?

Syntax covers the structural properties of language, e.g. word order

English (SVO)

(1) Tom watches TV

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What is syntax?

Syntax covers the structural properties of language, e.g. word order

English (SVO)

(1) Tom watches TV

Japanese (SOV)

(2) Tom-san-wa Terebi-o mimashita

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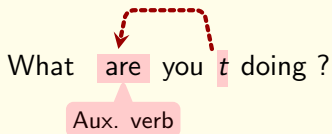
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What is syntax?

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What is semantics?

How are word meanings represented / expressed? How are word meanings combined to form sentence meanings?

Compositionality = the meaning of the whole is composed of the meaning of the parts

1. The Queen of England likes Corgis
2. The Queen of England likes **Dachsunds**

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What is pragmatics

The study of language in context

A: Do you want to see Mission Impossible V?

B: I don't like action movies.

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What is phonology?

Ask Ghada and Jalal!!

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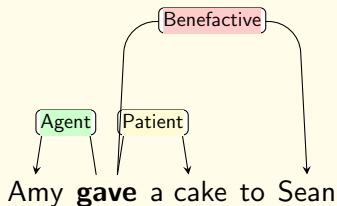
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Crossing over

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Theoretical linguistics

Psycholinguistics

Sociolinguistics

Discourse studies

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(5) I have n't got no money

(6) I ca n't get no satisfaction

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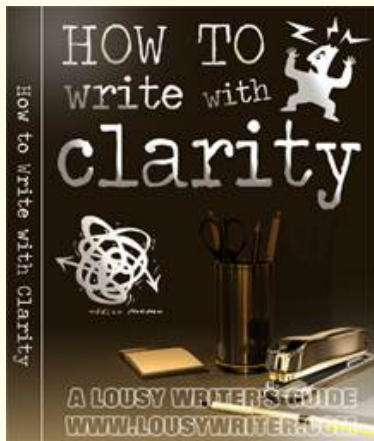
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Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak



It must be remembered that two negatives in the English language destroy each other and are equivalent to an affirmative. Often we hear such expressions as "He was not asked to give no opinion," expressing the very opposite of what is intended. The double negative, therefore, should be carefully avoided, for it is insidious. (*from "How to write with clarity"*)

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I don't regret anything

I don't regret nothing



Je ne regrette rien

No me arrepiento de nada



Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak

The use of "hopefully"

- (7) The dog looked **hopefully** at the food on the kitchen worksurface (NORMAL ADVERB)

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Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak

The use of "hopefully"

- (7) The dog looked **hopefully** at the food on the kitchen worksurface (NORMAL ADVERB)
- (8) **Hopefully**, it won't rain this morning (SENTENTIAL ADVERB)

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THE RULES ACCORDING TO JACOB

CORRECT STYLE

- Organisations are **SINGULAR**
- All non-titled males – Esq.
- There is no . after Miss or Ms
- M.P.s – no need to write M.P. after their name in body of text
- Male M.P.s (non-privy councillors) – in the address they should have Esq., before M.P. (e.g. Tobias Ellwood, Esq., M.P.)
- Double space after fullstops
- No comma after 'and'
- CHECK your work
- Use imperial measurements

BANNED WORDS/PHRASES

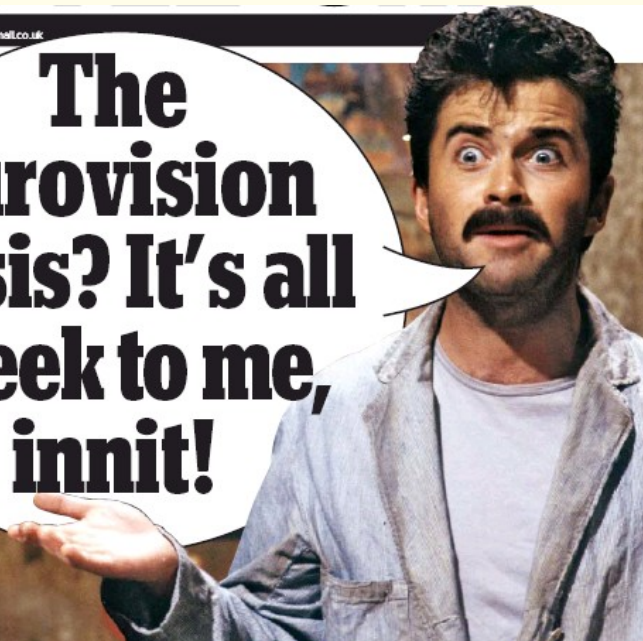
- Very
- Due to
- Ongoing
- Hopefully
- Unacceptable
- Equal
- 'invest' (in schools etc)
- No longer fit for purpose
- I am pleased to learn
- I note/understand your concerns
- Too many 'I's
- Yourself
- Lot
- Got
- Speculate
- Meet with
- Ascertain
- Disappointment



Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak

rd.littlejohn@dailymail.co.uk

**The
Eurovision
crisis? It's all
Greek to me,
innit!**



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KEEP
CALM
INNIIT

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Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak

1. It was a great meal, wasn't it / innit?
2. You're Jack's nephew, aren't you / innit?
3. They've been to Greece, haven't they / innit?

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(9) He be working Tuesdays

(10) He been got a job

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Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak

'A language is a dialect with an army and a navy'
(Weinreich)

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Which of these sentences is correct?

1. Me and Jack went to the shops
2. I and Jack went to the shops
3. Jack and me went to the shops
4. Jack and I went to the shops

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HYPERCORRECTION...

ME AND THE
MISSUS ARE
DRIVIN' TO
BROOME...

I AND ME
MISSUS AM
DRIVIN' TO
BROOME...

THE MISSUS
AND MESELF'LL
SEE YEZ
THERE...

Aston.

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It is important to be aware of prescriptive assumptions when testing children



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"The cat that the dog chased was brown"

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"The cat that the dog chased was brown"

"The cat **what** the dog chased was brown"

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What is semantics?

What is pragmatics?

What is phonology?

Crossing over

Subfields of linguistics

Approaches to language structure

Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak

Descriptive grammars - how we ACTUALLY speak

Mental grammars - the underlying system

A communicative view of language

A communicative view

Relationship with SLT practice

5-minute exercise

5-minute ex

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What is the grammatical word class (e.g. noun, verb, adjective etc.) of the italicised words in the following sentences:

1. The raging river tore through the valley
2. That film really sucks