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01 - Introduction to Linguistics

Nick Riches

Newcastle University

October 3, 2018

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Him go there

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Why SLTS need to know about linguistics

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

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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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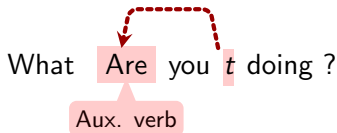
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What is syntax?

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What is semantics?

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

1. The **Queen of England** likes Corgis
2. The **monarch** likes Corgis
3. The monarch 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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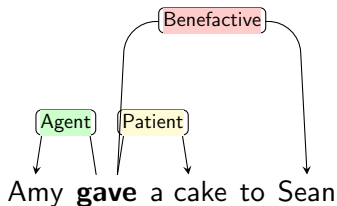
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Crossing over

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Theoretical linguistics

Psycholinguistics

Sociolinguistics

Discourse studies

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Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak

(5) I have n't got no money

(6) I ca n't get no satisfaction

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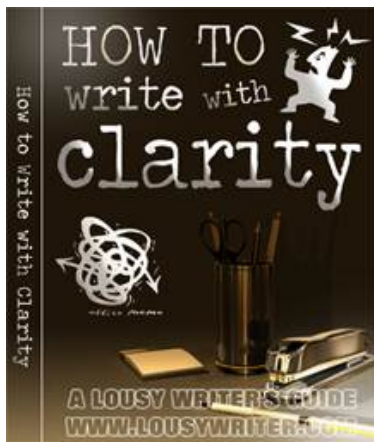
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Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak



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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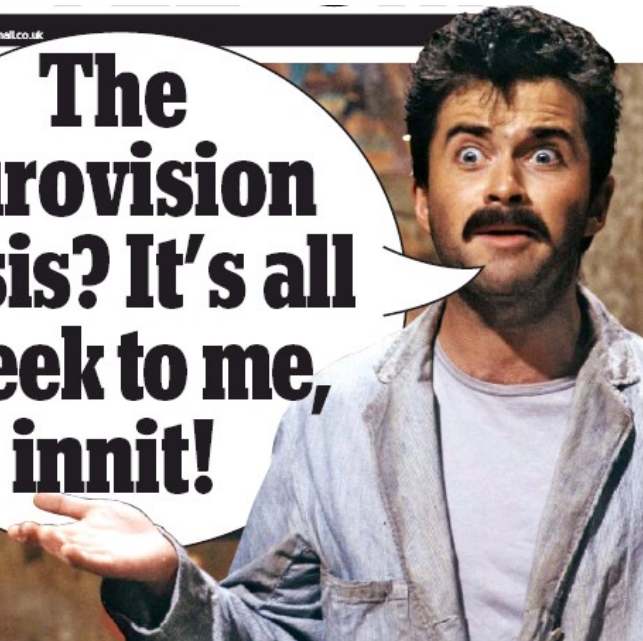
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Prescriptive grammars - how we SHOULD speak

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, are n't you / innit?
3. They 've been to Greece, have n'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 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