Tutorial 1 (4&5 Nov)

1. What are the major properties of language?
2. What is a waggle dance? Is it a true language?
3. What are the main areas of linguistics? What are the relevant linguistic symbols?
4. What are the main two approaches to language? Can we claim that one approach is better than another?
5. What are the main two perspectives of studying language? Are the two perspectives necessarily related to each other? (e.g. look up the words *woman* and *lady* in the Oxford English Dictionary)

Ans:

1. What are the major properties of language?

Displacement, arbitrariness, Productivity, Cultural Transmission, Duality, Discreetness

<https://www.sltinfo.com/key-properties-of-language/>

1. What is a waggle dance? Is it a true language?

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/honey-bee-dance-language>

<https://prizedwriting.ucdavis.edu/bee-waggle-dance-linguistic-analysis-insect-language>

<https://animalwise.org/2011/08/25/the-honeybee-waggle-dance-%E2%80%93-is-it-a-language/>

1. What are the main areas of linguistics? What are the relevant linguistic symbols?

phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, lexicology, discourse analysis

1. What are the main two approaches to language? Can we claim that one approach is better than another?

descriptive and prescriptive approach

1. What are the main two perspectives of studying language? Are the two perspectives necessarily related to each other? (e.g. look up the words *woman* and *lady* in the Oxford English Dictionary)

diachronic and synchronic

According to the OED, the word woman is an Old English compound consisting of the Old English word for "woman" wif and the Old English word for "human being" man. The meaning "female human being" has persisted to the present day, but formally the word is no longer recognisable as a compound. The particular advantage of the OED for this kind of historical study is that it traces the meanings of a word from the earliest attestations to the present and gives authentic examples as citations. The earliest meanings of woman are: - An adult female human being (earliest attestation from the year 893) - The female human being; the female part of the human race, the female sex (usage documented by attestations from 950) - A female servant, esp. a lady’s maid or personal attendant (from 766) Lady goes back to an Old English compound consisting of hlaf (= loaf, bread) and dig (= to knead). The earliest meanings of lady are: - A mistress in relation to servants or slaves; the female head of a household (earliest attestation 825) - A woman who rules over subjects, or to whom obedience or feudal homage is due; the feminine designation corresponding to lord (from 1000) - A woman of superior position in society, or to whom such a position is conventionally or by courtesy attributed (from 1205) - A woman whose manners, habits, and sentiments have the refinement characteristic of the higher ranks of society. (1861) The first traces of the polite (or condescending) use of lady thus go back to the Middles Ages, and the usage emerges fully formed in 1861.