

Introduction to Linguistics I

Lecturer: M. Hosseini

Time & Place: Saturday, 8-9:40; Room 124

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✚ Introduction to the Course (class notes)

➤ What is linguistics?

- The aims and scope of modern linguistics
 - What do we know when we know a language?
 - How do we acquire this knowledge?
 - How do we use this knowledge?

➤ Origins of Human Language (Yule 2017, chapter 1; Self-study)

➤ What distinguishes human language from other forms of communication (or Properties of Human Language) (Yule 2017, Ch. 2 + class notes)

- Displacement, Arbitrariness (and the case of Onomatopoeic words), Conventionality, Productivity, Duality, Cultural Transmission
- Can animals learn human languages? (Washoe, Sarah and Lana, Kanzi)

✓ Study Questions (Ch. 2); Tasks B, C, E; Discussion Topics I, II

✚ Morphology: the study of word structure (Yule 2017, Chapters 6 & 5 + class notes)

➤ What is a word?

➤ Morpheme and Allomorph

- **Types of Morpheme:** Free (lexical/functional) & Bound (derivational/inflectional) morphemes; Bound roots; Root, Stem, Affix (Prefix, Infix, Suffix, Circumfix)

➤ Types of word: Simple, compound, complex, compound-complex

✓ (Chapter 6) Study Questions; Tasks A, B, C; Discussion Topics I, (optional) II

✚ Word Formation

➤ Neologisms

➤ Etymology

➤ Word Formation Processes:

- Coinage, Derivation, Conversion (zero derivation), Compounding, Blending, Clipping, Hypocorisms, Backformation, Borrowing, Loan-translation, Acronyms, Initialisms, Abbreviation

✓ (Chapter 5) Study Questions; Tasks A, C, E, H; Discussion Topics I, II

✚ Grammar (Yule 2017, chapters 7 & 8+class notes)

What is grammar? A set of rules AND/OR a resource for meaning-making

- The Legacy of Traditional Grammars
- Prescriptive vs. Descriptive Approaches to Grammar
- Parts of Speech: Open Classes (Noun, Adjective, Verb, Adverb); Closed Classes (Article (Determiner), Preposition, Pronoun, Conjunction)
- Grammatical Categories: number, person, voice, gender, tense, aspect
- Constituents and constituency tests (substitution, movement, wh-questions, coordination) (Class notes)
- Grammatical Functions and Constituents
- Word Order Typology of Languages

✓ (Chapter 7) Study Questions; Tasks C, D, E, F, G; Discussion Topics I, II

✚ **Syntax:** The Study of Sentence Structure

- Generative Syntax
- Linguistic Competence vs. Linguistic Performance
 - English Phrase Structure Rules (NP, VP, PP, AP)
 - The hierarchical structure of sentences and tree diagrams
- Universal Grammar

✓ (Chaper 8) Study Questions; Tasks A, B, C, D, H; Discussion Topics I, II

✚ **Semantics:** The study of linguistic meaning (Yule 2017, Ch. 9, + class notes)

- Conceptual/denotative vs. associative/connotative meaning
- Speaker meaning vs. Sentence meaning
- **Word meaning:** Semantic features; Collocations; Prototypes
- **Words as access points**
- **Lexical relations:** synonymy, oppositeness, hyponymy, homonymy, homophony, metonymy, polysemy
- **Sentence meaning:** compositionality & non-compositionality of sentence meaning (class notes)
- **Semantic case roles:** Agent, Patient, Theme, Location, Instrument, Time, Experiencer, Goal, Stimulus, Recipient. (Hudson, Ch. 17 or class notes)

✓ (Chapter 9) Study Questions; Tasks B, C, D, E, F, G, I; Discussion Topics I, II

✚ **Main Text**

- ❖ **Yule, George. 2017 (6th ed.) *The Study of Language*. Cambridge: CUP.** [chapters 1 (self-study), 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]

Recommended Reading

Swan, Michael. 2005. *Grammar*. Oxford. Oxford University Press.
Widdowson. H. G. 1996. *Linguistics*. Oxford. Oxford University Press.

✚ **Evaluation**

- ✓ Mid-term Exam (optional) 40-45% (both essay type and multiple-choice questions)
- ✓ Final Exam 55-60% (both essay type and multiple-choice questions)
- ✓ Class activity (bonus) 0-5% (attendance, participation, and preparedness)
- ✓ **[OPTIONAL]** Doing 2 of the discussion topics up to 10%

✚ **For Further Study:**

Akmajian, A. *et al.* 2010 (6th ed.). *Linguistics: An introduction to language and communication*. MIT Press.
Bauer, Laurie. 2012. *Beginning Linguistics*. Palgrave MacMillan.
Crystal, David. 1987. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. Cambridge: CUP.
Crystal, David. 2003a (5th ed.). *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
Crystal, David. 2003b (2nd ed.) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. Cambridge: CUP.
Finch, Geoffrey. 2000. *Linguistic Terms and Concepts*. Houndmills: McMillan Press.
Fromkin, V., R. Rodman and N. Hyams. 2014 (10th ed.). *An Introduction to Language*. Wadsworth.
Hudson, Grover. 2000. *Essential Introductory Linguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
Katamba, Francis & John Stonham. 2006. *Morphology*. Houndmills: MacMillan Press Ltd.
Nunan, David. 2013 (2nd ed.). *What is This Thing Called Language?* London: Palgrave.
Richards, J. C. & Richard Schmidt. 2002 (3rd ed.). *Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*. London: Longman.