Communication and Language

Chapter 4
Linguistics

- ...the scientific study of language.
- **Language:**
  - ...a system of symbols with standard meanings through which members of a society communicate with one another.
  - ...a system of communication using sounds or gesture that are put together in meaningful ways according to a set of rules.
Features of Human Language

- **Productivity:**
  - …an open system of communication.

- **Displacement:**
  - …the capacity to convey information about things or an event that is not present.
  - (Hypothetical, past, future)
Features of Human Language

- Arbitrariness:
  - …no inherent connection, just social agreement. “Symbols- language is a system of communication in symbols.”
Anthropological Linguist

- **Phonology** - Study of the sounds of the language.
- **Morphology** - Study of the words of a language.
- **Syntax** - Study of the sentence structure.
- **Semantics** - Study of the meaning of the language.
Phonology

- …the study of sounds of a language.
- **Phoneme**-
  - …is a unit of sound that distinguishes meaning in a particular language.
  - …the minimal units of sound that signal a difference in meaning.
Phonology

- **Duality of Patterning:**
  - ...same sounds, (phonemes), can be combined and recombined to form different meanings.
- **Minimal-pair Test** –
  - ...the linguist tries to find short words that appear to be exactly alike except for one sound.
Minimal Pairs -

..words that resemble one another but contain one distinctive sound difference.

Dime Time Den Ten
Rat Bat Day Pay

This minimal pair difference between “1st” letter, represent a contrast in meaning or “Phonemic Difference.”
Duality of Patterning: Cont’d

- How many phonemes are there in the English language?

- Nonhuman animals cannot combine their sound units to communicate new meanings; one vocalization is given to indicate a specific response.
Morphology

- ...is the study of meaningful set of sounds in a language.
- Morphemes - (Morphs) ...the smallest units of a language that convey meaning.

- Prefixes-
- Roots-
- Suffixes-
Morphology

- Prefixes –
  - **In**…
  - **Indecisive, i**nexperience, **i**ndefinite…
  - **Un**…
  - **Unclear, unwise, unmotivated**…
  - **A**…
  - Amoral, atypical, asymmetrical…
Morphology

- Suffixes-
- Rat (s)
- Artists
- Art – Root word
- Artist – (ist)
- Artists – (ist) (s)
- Musicians, players, thinkers
Syntax

- …the principles guiding how words are arranged into phrases and sentences. (The order of words)

- Example- The boy (subject) drank (verb) the water (object)
Origins of Language

- Discrete languages:
- Reasonable estimate of approximately 6,000
- 95% of world population speak only 100 of the 6,000 languages.
- 20% of world population speak Mandarin
- 45% speak English, Hindi, Spanish & Russian
- The rest speak thousands of discrete lang.
Historical Linguistics

- The study of how languages change over time.
- Process:
  - The study of contemporary *Daughter Languages.*
  - *Protolanguage* is the original language from which the daughter languages diverge.
Sociolinguistics

- Ethnography of speaking -
- …concerned with cultural and subcultural patterns of speech variation in different social contexts.
- …concentration on variations in language use depending on the social situation or context in which the speaker is operating.
Sociolinguistics

- **Code Switching** -
  ...using more than one language in the course of conversing.

- **Diglossia** -
  ...the situation in which two forms of the same language are spoken by people in the same language community depending on the social situation.