

# Linguistics 201 A Concise Introduction to Linguistics

## Chapter 1: The Nature of Communication

- Communication - behavior that affects the behavior of others by the transmission of information.
- Code - a complex pattern of associations of the units of a communication system. In language those units could be sound units; meaningful units such as words, phrases, sentences, and clauses.
- Grammar - the system of elements and of the rules of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics inherent in a language.
- Decode - to react to it in a way that reflects the reason that the sender encoded it.
- Phonological system - the grammar of sounds of that language.
- Lexicon - mental dictionary; vocabulary one has stored in the brain.
- Morphological Rules - rules used to construct words from their parts.
- Syntax - a set of rules a person uses to form units of language larger than words. (Sentences, phrases, etc.)
- Semantics - study of meaning.
- Linguistic Competence - is the subconscious knowledge of language that allows a speaker to create a potentially infinite number of messages.
- Productivity - the ability to produce messages that one has never produced before and to understand messages that one has never heard before.
- Linguistic Performance - the application of linguistic competence to actually produce an utterance.
- Delivery System of Language - the way in which knowledge of a language is used to send a message. (Speech, writing, sign language, etc.)
- Verbal - language: speech, writing, or sign language.
- Nonverbal - any communication that is not conveyed through speech, writing, or sign language. (Chimpanzees, gorillas, and other monkeys used gestures through sign language to communicate in the studies).
- Synchrony - the connection and relationship between two or more things that occur at the same time.
- Culture Shock - the disorientation and anxiety that occurs when social expectations are not met.
- Ethnocentrism - is judging other cultures by the standards of your culture; belief that your culture is superior.
- Pheromone - a chemical that is secreted by one individual and acts from a distance on another individual to alter that individual's behavior.
- Redundancy - occurs when the same message is encoded in different ways and is simultaneously sent to the receiver of the message.
- Sound Spectrograph - is an instrument used to analyze sound by producing a visual record of the time duration of the sound, its frequency, and its amplitude.
- Calls - relatively short vocal signals that communicate a variety of messages.
- Songs - longer and more complex sequences of sounds that, in birds, are usually associated with attracting a mate.
- Openness - the ability to add new words, phrases, or other meaningful units to a language.

- Discreet Signal - one that does not blend with other signals.
- Arbitrary - in relationship to language, means that features of language, such as words, have no direct relationship to their meaning.
- Stimulus-Bound Behavior - is a behavior that only occurs as a result of a specific environment trigger.
- Displacement - is the ability to communicate about things at times other than the present and to communicate about things not directly in front of the sender.
- Prevarication - refers to the ability to communicate about things that are not verifiable, things for which there is no empirical proof.
- Hominid - refers to modern humans and the ancestors of modern humans that go back 6 million years.
- Chimpanzee WASHOE - was taught how to sign in American Sign Language, completely nonverbally and later began to string signs together without being taught so to form phrases.
- Bonobo KANZI - learned how to use a computer keyboard by watching his mother being trained. Showed basic understanding of grammar.
- Gorilla KOKO - first nonhuman to chat on the Internet; had a very large ASL vocabulary.
- Parrot ALEX - believed to be capable of thinking as opposed to mindless mimicking.
- For a communication system to be called language it must have lexicon and a grammar.
- Faculty of Language in the Broad Sense (FLB) - some language capabilities that humans and nonhumans share.
- Faculty of Language in the Narrow Sense (FLN) - characteristics of language that are unique to human language.
- Recursion - process whereby any linguistic unit, can be made longer by embedding another unit in it; primary feature of FLN.
  - o Allows people to compare, analyze, and combine thoughts in an endless way.
  - o Recursive property of language is the main thing that makes language unique to humans.
- Clever Hans Effect - the name given to the fact that a nonhuman's or human's behavior might be influenced or directed by subtle and often unintentional cues of others. In terms of experimentation, these cues might reflect a researcher's expectations of what the results of the experiment should be. (Researchers studying primate language were accused of giving the monkeys cues when asked to sign specific words or phrases which has led many to believe that their research is insignificant).
- Broca's area of the brain - area of the brain that controls the larynx, lips, tongue, and other areas of the digestive and respiratory systems involved with oral and facial fine motor skills in the production of speech.
- Wernicke's area - one of the areas of the brain that is involved in the comprehension of speech and the selection of lexical items.
- Broca's Aphasia - condition caused by damage to Broca's area and is characterized by problems in the production of speech and loss of some grammatical understanding.
- Wernicke's Aphasia - caused by damage to Wernicke's area and is characterized by speech that includes lexical errors and nonsense words.
- Theory of Mind - the ability to characterize and predict the mental states of others.

- The Looking Glass Self - the human characteristic of building a concept of self through interpreting the perceptions we believe that others have of us and their behavioral reactions toward us.