

Tikrit University

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English Department



Applied Linguistics

Higher Studies- M.A.

Language Description in Applied Linguistics: Part 1

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2025-2024

1. Phonetic

Q/ what are the phonetics ? why do we study phonetics?

Phonetics : The study of the sounds that human beings make in their language .

We study the phonetics **because most language are transmitted by sound and one of the most obvious differences between language is that they sound different.**

2. Transcribing sound

*It means the written form of the language .The sound of language are not the same as letters of the language such as **cough , through** so linguistics use **(IPA)** to represent sound .

3. The sound of language

1.3.1 Vowel : sound that produced by altering the shape of the vocal tract by the positioning of the tongue and lips.

→ Rounded = **look**

→ Short = **hat**

1.3.2 Diphthongs : Are vowels in which the tongue starts in one position and moves to another . e.g. Toy = [toi]

1.3.3 consonants : Are sounds which are produced by a partial or complete construction of vocal tract. There are 3 features in articulation

1.3.4 Suprasegmental : The sound properties of language extend more than one segment includes **stress , pitch and tone**

Language * stress

.You know how to get there. You know how to get there?

1.4 Phonology

What does it mean phonology ? what is the differences between phonetic and phonology?

Phonology : The study of sound pattern . The focus of phonology is to determine the way in which speech sounds form meaningful systems within language. For example, the sound [f] and [v] represent two phonemes in English because they contrast in word like ***fine*** and ***vine***

1.5 Morphology

Morphology deals with the way in which words are made up of morphemes , the smallest ,meaning units of language.

Free morpheme: Are those which can be used by their own .

Bound morphemes : Are those which have to be attached to another morpheme.

Also we have **free grammatical morphemes** and bound **lexical morphemes** . Free grammatical phonemes like **definite article a** and **lexical morphemes are not common in English**. Some morphemes are highly productive : **the past tense morpheme can occur on any verb** .At the other extreme are completely unproductive like morpheme **cran-** found in the word cranberry . If we split the morpheme **berry** off ,leaving us with cran- which does not occur anywhere in English . Other morphemes fall between these extremes of productivity like –un occur on some verbs but not all like (**untie** but ***ungo**= ungrammatical word)

Q/Does a single morpheme appear with different form ? How?

A single morpheme may appear with different form in different words . The words horses , cats and oxen all have suffixes showing that more than one , but plural suffix has different form called different allomorphs [iz] end of the horses and [z] at the end of dogs.

Types of bound grammatical morphemes (affixes)

1. Prefix → morpheme in front of a root (*-un*)
2. Suffix → behind the root (*-s*)
3. Affix → within a root (*chum*ocho) it means eat

Suppletion : A process which means changing the vowel of the root and sometimes the root is changed completely

.mouse = mice run = ran . Go = went

Q./ can we consider suppletion as a morphemes ?

Its hard to think of root modification or suppletion as morphemes ,linguists talk about affixation and root modification as morphological processes.

Q./ what are the differences between *book* and *book is red*?

Book means we are talking about particular sort of reading material and when we use this root with plural suffix –s to indicate that we are talking about more than

Book is red : Does not indicate the general idea of bookness –the use of the form without –s indicates that we are talking about a single book and an additional concept beyond the general idea of the book.

There is a contrast between no material and an explicit marker . sometimes talked about the presence zero morpheme . The word book consist of zero morpheme which considered inappropriate by many linguists (how do you tell if there is one , two. ...etc) .particular absence is meaningful depends on the language.like the root pashpa means either ‘child ‘ or ‘children’ depending on context.

Morphological process :

1.Reduplication : It’s a morphological process which occur in some language , which may be full or partial like *toko* is Indonesian for ‘shop’ and *toko-toko* means ‘shop’ .

2. **compounding** : Where two roots are combined to form a single new word with different meaning .

e.g/ Black and bird = blackbird

3. **Inflection** : In the root consider = considers or considered

4. **Derivation** : Consider = consideration and considerable

Scales of language:

1. Isolating ,agglutinative and fusional

2. Analytic , synthetic and polysynthetic

1. **An isolating:** Is one which does not join morphemes together in one word.

Agglutinative : Is the process where morphemes join but are easily segmentable.

Fusional: Is where morphemes join but are hard to segment.(mice is ‘mouse-plural’ but we cannot segment it)

2. **An analytic language** : Is one where each word only has one morphemes .

Synthetic language : Is language that has a few morphemes per word.

Polysynthetic : Language may have morphemes in a single word.