
Language: Nature And Its Properties

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Abstract

This research paper talks about the origin of language, its nature, how language was constituted and its importance. We all know that language is the major medium of communication among human beings. The scientific study of language is called linguistics. The subject of linguistics is to study the components of language. This paper tells us about the major features of language that helps us to understand the language.

Key Words: - Language, natural, artificial, phonology, semantics, morphology.

Introduction

Aim of the study: The aim of the study is to attract the attention of the readers towards the most important part of our life that is language. Without language we cannot imagine our life. The aim is to try to make its readers understand the concept of language.

Paper: Among the two wheels of communication language is the most important and strongest one so it is important. Language is the verbal means of communication that is expression through words or it is a systematic verbal symbolism. The non-verbal means is the expression through various symbols. Being verbal in nature language serves manifold purposes and is a part of a personality. It is a complex system consisting of various sub-systems.

It is indisputable that language is central to all communities of human beings. Language is essential for the regulation of every community. the instruction of its young, the development of its culture, the identification of its members. Consequently, language, as well as being a fascinating phenomenon in itself, is a necessary part of any investigation of human social organisation and psychology. Languages are organized on the level of expression to put it crudely, the level. the noises in which the message is encoded- and the level of content is unfortunate, since this level encompasses both the organisation of words with sentences and the meanings that associates with these words and sentences but it is the standard term. The study of the level of expression of sounds belongs to phonetics and phonology Phonetics is concerned with the description of physical sounds, the functioning of the organs that are involved in their products in and the range of sounds, the speech organs can produce, and the second level is concerned with semantics which studies the words and its meaning.

Spoken long is more basic than written language, yet the written language enjoys greater prestige in all communities, in possession of a writing system and a literature. Written language has a greater range of vocabulary, a more complex syntax and, expect perhaps is hastily composed letters, none of the stops, starts and repetitions of spoken language. Nevertheless, it is the spoken language which is fundamental. Every normal human being learns to speak before he learns to write.

The history of language contributes two facts that put the primacy of spoken language beyond doubt. Firstly, no case is known of a community, that had a written language before it had a spoken language. Speech always developed in a long time before the emergence of a writing system. The second is that

changes in language over time by and large originate in the spoken language and gradually find their way into the written language.

Traditionally a third component was also recognised as morphology dealing with the structure of words. It is evident that if sentences can be spilt up to make words, words can be spilt up to make words, words can be spilt up into smaller units. For example the word Ineffectiveness consists of three parts-effect,ive and ness.It is in many ways a sort of bridge between the content and the expression level.

Languages are many types we can be classified as:

Artificial language: Artificial language or is the language which we learn by efforts. It doesn't have natural complexity. Artificial language does not have the capacity to fulfil the need of natural language.

Natural Language: Natural language is one that is acquired biologically. Human being is born with the ability to acquire language and his ability is inbuilt, the acquisition of natural language.

Classical language: Classical language is the language that is restricted to a certain domain.

Language is a very complex human phenomenon, all attempts to define it have proved inadequate. In a nutshell, language is an 'organised noise in actual social institutions that is why it has also been defined as 'contextualised systematic sounds.

Philosophers, logicians, psychological literary critics, linguists and many other have been. interested in language and have defined it from the point of view of their own discipline There is no comprehensive definition of language.

According to an ancient linguist of India, Patanjali, "Language is that human expression which is uttered out by speech organs."

In the "Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol 18, language is defined as " A system of conventional spoken or written symbols by which human beings as members of social groups and participants in its culture communicate."

"The totality of the utterances that can be made in a speech community is the language of that speech community." Bloomfield. None of the above definitions are perfect.

Human system of communication is open system that is number of sounds and elements are finite. But out of this limited sounds and elements we can produce number of sentences. It is possible to count number of sounds but impossible to count the sentences.

Linguist Charles Hockett made distinction between human and animal system of communication in terms of unique properties. He said that the properties are unique to humans which are absent in animals. The features that distinguish human from animals is called design features of language. There are several features that are unique in human language.

Universal existence of Language: Wherever there are human beings there is language. There are many communities which does not have written record. The form of language is a universal phenomenon. Language exists in the minds of the wiser. The forms that we hear in terms of the dialects, the forms are the manifestations of language.

2) **Language consists of meaningful sounds:** Except for sign system which is rare. All languages consist of meaning meaningful sounds. Sounds in insolation are irrelevant. They become meaningful in the context of other sounds.

3) **Equality of language:** When there is no inequality and everybody is human then naturally the language, we use should be equal. There is no question of primitiveness. All languages are equal and have equal potential of expression. Therefore, it is not incorrect to say that a particular language is incapable of expressing something. or back

4) **Presence of category in language:** All language systems are categorial- the two categories

are grammatical and meaning category. All language contains grammatical category. It is not essential for language to have all grammatical category but grammatical category should be present in the language. The language should consist one or two grammatical category-1) The Nominal (2) verbal because, the language needs these two categories for its accomplishment There is no language which does not have the nominal and verbal category.

Specific features: After having summarised the general properties of language it is essential to describe the specific properties of language. The specific properties of language are those properties which are used to distinguish the human system of communication. These features are called design features by a linguist called Charles Hockett.

- 1) **Creativity:** Creativity of language which has been called production by Hockett. Creativity is the ability of the native speakers to produce and understand, interpret ssssssssssssan infinite number of sentences that is with the finite no of sounds, an infinite number of sentences that is with the finite number of sounds can be created. The actual number of sounds are 44.
- 2) **Arbitrariness:** A unique property of language is its arbitrariness that is the relationship between sound and meaning is arbitrary. There is no particular correspond between the sound of a word and its meaning. the animal system of communication in the contrary. - isn't arbitrary that it has a direct bearing

3) **Interchangeability:** Language is interchangeable. This implies that the the speaker of a language performs two roles in the act of communication. (i) role of a producer of sentence. (ii) role of a receiver. Communication is not a mere transmission of messages but it is an exchange of information.

4) **Displacement:** Displacement is another specific property of language which refers to the representation of real or imagination, events in present, past or future. Human beings refer to times with the help of Tenses, Time, Temporal, Space. All human languages have a grammatical system through which they are able to express the concept of time that is language can be used to display time., which has a two! folded dimension.

5) **Specialisation:** Specialisation is the property of language that is a degree to which there is a physical involvement in the act of communication. Human beings aren't required to indulge in physical expression while using language but in the contrary there has to be a physical involvement in the animal system of communication.

6) **Cultural Transmission.** The importance of cultural transmission of language is impossible to ignore. Language has to be learned in the environment in which human beings are born the rules that governing the particular of sentences have to operate in certain cultural setting. Language is not the product of biological maker but it is the environment that moulds the type of communication. On the other hand, animal language is the part of genetic environment. In other words, while the human language is culturally transmitted, the animal l language is genetically transmitted.

7) **Discreteness** - Language makes use of sounds and grammatical units. We study sounds and grammatical units. We study sounds in the category of phonology and the grammatical unit comes in the domain of morphology.

8) **Reflexiveness**: Language can be used to talk about. itself eg herself, himself.

9) **Semanticity**. Language is always used to convey something to the hearer. The hearer unconsciously analyses the group of words and obtains the meaning conveyed to him.

To summarise this, it can be said that language is the gift of evolution and convention. When compared to the animal system of communication we find that human language is open, unlimited and infinite while animal system is closed and limited. Human system is flexible, non-instinctive and inherited and acquired while animal system of communication is inflexible, instinctive and inherited. Human language is full of novelty, cognitive and descriptive.

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