



**TRINITY COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
NAMAKKAL**

PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

EVEN SEMESTER

I M.A., ENGLISH LITERATURE

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LINGUISTICS

- Linguistics is the scientific study of language.
- Here 'language' means language in general,
 - not a particular language.
- If we study a particular language, we may
 - 'I am studying French or English or Hindi or
 - Tamil (which language we happen to be
 - studying)

Polyglot vs Linguist

- **A person who knows many languages-
polyglot**
- **A person who studies general principles of
language – Linguist**
 - **Mechanism- Linguistics**
 - **Every language is a system**

- **Linguistics- studies language**
- **Physicist or chemist- materials & measures their weights, densities, etc. to determine their nature.**
- **Biologist- specimen of some form of Life and examines it under microscope**

ROBIN'S DEFINITION

Linguistics is concerned with human language as a universal and recognizable part of the human behaviour and of the human faculties perhaps one of the most essential to human life as we know it, and one of the most far-reaching of human capabilities in relation to the whole span of mankind's achievements.

SCOPE OF LINGUISTICS

The concern of linguistics is

- **To describe language**
- **To study the nature of language**
- **To establish a theory of language**

- **Descriptive-** Describing the structure of language
- **Comparative-** Comparing languages and establish correspondences between them
- **Historical-** Examining the history and evolution of languages

BRANCHES OF LINGUISTICS

- **Psycholinguistics**
- **Sociolinguistics**
- **Anthropological Linguistics**

Psycholinguistics

- **Language is a mental phenomenon.**
- **Studies the mental processes- processes of thought, concept formation & articulation in language.**
- **Cognitive psychology- how meanings are understood by the human brain, how syntax & memory are linked, how messages are decoded and stored.**

Some Fundamental Concepts and Distinctions in Linguistics

Sassure- Langue & Parole

- **Langue**

- Means language
- All the rules and conventions regarding the combination of sounds, formation of words and sentences, pronunciation and meaning.

- **Lingue is social, a set of conventions shared by all the speakers of a language.**
- **Lingue is abstract, as these particular conventions exist in the minds of the speakers who belong to that society that has created the language.**

PAROLE

- **Belongs to the individual**
- **Individual performance of language in speech or writing.**
- **Concrete and physical.**
- **It makes use of the physiological mechanism such as speech organs, in uttering words and sentences.**

THANK YOU

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