

Introduction

Linguistics aims to discover the science of languages, how they originate and evolved and further how our mind perceives them to communicate. For those who love learning new languages, this area of study is specifically of interest as it can help you learn the roots and history of any language thus unraveling the whole world of even the simplest of a language or dialect. Linguistics is a broad area of study and encompasses varied specializations for students to choose from. This lecture brings you a detailed list of major branches of linguistics, their key features as well as how you can make a successful career in linguistics.

What is the difference between macro and micro linguistics?

Micro-linguistics is a small scale observation of language, particularly dealing with the concepts of grammar, syntax, and individual words. ... **Macro-linguistics** deals with language and extra-lingual related phenomena as a whole, while **Micro-linguistics** deals with the analysis of specific **linguistic** data.

The first set of six categories -- from **phonetics** to **pragmatics** -- divides up the study of the linguistic system itself. Each category focuses on a different level of description and analysis. Research that spans two levels, or deals explicitly with their relationship, may rate a compound designator. This is especially common with morphology, since word structure is inevitably tied both to sentence structure -- **morphosyntax** -- and to word-related effects on sound structure -- **morphophonology**.

The second list of categories -- **theoretical**, **historical**, **socio-** etc. -- tells us about possible connections between linguistics and external topics. Each of this second set of linguistic sub-disciplines can in principle deal with any of the six levels of description in the first set. Thus sociolinguists study the social dimensions of pronunciation (phonetics or phonology), word and sentence structure (morphology and syntax), conversational styles (pragmatics), and so on.

Theoretical linguistics is distinguished by focusing not on any external topics, but rather on the nature of the linguistic system in and of itself. Linguistic theory again can deal with any of the six levels of analysis. We can also cite the category of **descriptive linguistics**, which aims to create systematic descriptions of the facts of particular languages, and again deals with any or all of the analytic levels.

What are the branches of macro-linguistics?



1. Historical linguistics

Historical linguistics, also termed diachronic linguistics, is the scientific study of language change over time. It is the study of not only the **history** of languages, as the name implies, but also the study of how languages change, and how languages are related to one another.

- What is the example of historical linguistics?

For example, historical linguists may study changes in the history of a single language, for instance the changes from Old English to Modern English, or between Old French and Modern French, to mention just two examples. Modern English is very different from Old English, as is Modern French from Old French.

2. Developmental linguistics is the study of the development of linguistic ability in an individual, particularly the acquisition of language in childhood.

- What is an example of language development?

' When your child starts using words, you can repeat and build on what your child says. For **example**, if your child says, 'Apple,' you can say, 'You want a red apple? ... When you pay attention and respond to your child in these ways, it encourages them to keep communicating and developing their **language** skills.

- What is linguistic development of a child?

Language development is the process by which children come to understand and communicate language during early childhood.

3. **Neurolinguistics** is the study of the neural mechanisms in the human brain that control the comprehension, production, and acquisition of language. **Neurolinguistics** is the study of language-brain relations. Its final goal is the comprehension and explanation of the neural bases for language knowledge and use.

For **example**, when we understand or say a word like 'apple', we are likely to use information about what apples look, feel, smell, and taste like, even though we aren't aware of doing this. So, listening, understanding, talking, and reading involve activities in many parts of the brain.

4. Stylistics Linguistics?

Stylistics is a branch of applied linguistics concerned with the study of style in texts, especially, but not exclusively, in literary works. Also called literary linguistics, **stylistics** focuses on the figures, tropes, and other rhetorical devices used to provide variety and distinctness to someone's writing.

- **What are Stylistics examples?**

Stylistics is the study of varieties of language whose properties position that language in context. For **example**, the language of advertising, politics, religion, individual authors, etc., or the language of a period in time, all are used distinctively and belong in a particular situation.

5. **Biolinguistics** can be defined as the study of **biology** and the evolution of **language**. It is highly interdisciplinary as it is related to various fields such as **biology**, **linguistics**, psychology, anthropology, mathematics, and neurolinguistics to explain the formation of **language**.

- **What is biology of language acquisition?**

Human **language** is made possible by special adaptations of the human mind and body that occurred in the course of human evolution, and which are put to use by children in acquiring their mother tongue.

Biolinguistics answers questions like:

Is language acquisition biological?

Quite often it is believed that children **acquire** languages regardless of their cognitive abilities, such as perception, spatial understanding, and working memory. ... The results suggest that working memory is likely to be one of the most important **biological** factors in **language development** among children.

6. **Computational linguistics** is the scientific and engineering discipline concerned with understanding written and spoken language from a computational perspective, and building artifacts that usefully process and produce language, either in bulk or in a dialogue setting.

7. **Psycholinguistics** or psychology of language is the study of the interrelation between linguistic factors and psychological aspects. ... **Neurolinguistics** is the study of the neural mechanisms in the human brain that

control the comprehension, production, and acquisition of language. **Neurolinguistics** is the study of the neural mechanisms in the human brain that control the comprehension, production, and acquisition of language.

8. Geographical Linguistics or Language and Geography:

It refers to local or regional variations of a language or dialect studied as a field of knowledge and called also dialect geography.

Language geography is the branch of human geography that studies the geographic distribution of language or its constituent elements. Linguistic geography can also refer to studies of how people talk about the landscape. For example, toponymy is the study of place names.

9. **Sociolinguistics and Language Variation** involve the study of how **language** varies among different groups of speakers and the relationship of this **variation** to social factors.

- What is meant by language variation?

The term linguistic **variation** (or simply **variation**) refers to regional, social, or contextual differences in the ways that a particular **language** is used. **Variation** between **languages**, dialects, and speakers is known as interspaced **variation**.

- What are the factors for language variation?

The **factors** that influence a speaker's or writer's choice of **language** vary, and they include the context that surrounds the speaker or writer, the age, gender, culture, etc. Very often, the choice of **language** is conscious, and the speaker can switch the **language** choice depending on such **factors**.

10. **Psycholinguistics** is the study of the mental aspects of language and speech. It is primarily concerned with the ways in which language is represented and processed in the brain. A branch of both linguistics and psychology, **psycholinguistics** is part of the field of cognitive science.

Psycholinguistics or psychology of language is the study of the interrelation between linguistic factors and psychological aspects.

- What is the main goal of psycholinguistics?

The common **aim of psycholinguistics** is “to find out about the structures and processes which underlie a human's ability to speak and understand language”.

Summary

Difference between macro and micro linguistics pdf

Linguistics is simply the study of language. The micro prefix refers to the small, and the macro refers to the large. **Micro linguistics** refers to how small language changes have evolved and affect the sound and appearance of language. For example: there, they are, and all their sound the same, but they have small changes in the way they are written. **Micro linguistics** also looks at how the words sound (phonetic), the organization of these sounds (phonology), and how words are formed (morphology) to name a few. **Micro linguistics** is often not interested in the meaning of words as much as the way the word sounds or is formed and is often represented individually. On the other hand, macro linguistics refers to how language and society interact; in particular how social factors can influence the use of language in greater society. **Macro linguistics** often compares languages between countries or cultures, changing language overtime or other large influences outside society. **Micro linguistics** is a branch of linguistics that refers to the study of linguistic systems in the abstract, without taking into account the meaning or notional content of linguistic expressions. In **micro linguistics**, language is reduced to the abstract mental elements of syntax and phonology. Contrasts with macro linguistics, which includes meanings, and especially with sociolinguistics, which study how language and meaning work within human social systems. [1] The term **micro linguistic** was first used in print by George L. Trager, in an article published in 1949 in *Studies in Linguistics: Occasional Papers*.

[2] References ^ Matthews, P.H. (2002), *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Linguistics*, Oxford: Oxford UP. ^ *Micro linguistics*, *Oxford English Dictionary* (second ed.), Oxford UP, 1989. This syntax-related article is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.vte