//What is linguistics ?Q1

It is the scientific study of a language as a system of human communication . It has been accepted as an independent discipline in 1960s . It now covers a wide range of fields with different approaches and areas of investigation, for example sound systems (phonetics , phonology) , sentence structure (syntax) and meaning system (semantics) , pragmatics (function and use of language) .

Q2 What is meant by " surface syntax " and " deep syntax " ?

Surface syntax

It is another form for '' surface structure '' which is the central theoretical term in transformational grammar .The surface structure is the final stage in the syntactic representation of a sentence , which provides the input to the phonological component of the grammar . It therefore closely corresponds to the structure of the sentence we articulate and hear . However , analyzing a surface string of morphemes through constituent analysis cannot explain how we recognize certain ambiguous sentences or how we relate sentences which have different surface forms but the same basic meaning (e.g cats chase mice and mice are chased by cats) .

Accordingly , in the late 1950s , linguists postulate a deep or 'underlying' structure for sentences – a level of structure organization in which all the factors determining structural interpretation are defined and interrelated .

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Deep syntax

It is an underlying level of structural organization which specifies all the factors governing the way the sentence should be interpreted . It has different names in syntax as *D-structure* , *underlying structure* , *base structure* , *remote structure* and *initial structure* . It actually provides information which helps us distinguish between the alternative interpretations of sentences which have the same surface form (i.e. they are ambiguous) , e.g. '' flying planes can be dangerous , where flying planes can be related to two underlying sentences , **planes which fly** … and **to fly planes** … It also helps relate sentences which have different surface forms but the same underlying meaning as in the relationship between active and passive structures , e.g. '' Ali chased the lion '' as opposed to '' The lion was chased by Ali .

Therefore and as Yule states (2006:88), the deep structure is an abstract level of structural organization which comprises all the elements determining structural interpretation. It can be the source of many other surface structures such as: "It was Charlie who broke the window" and "Was the window broken by Charlie?" To summarize, the grammar should be able to show how a single underlying abstract representation can become different surface structure.

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What is semantics ?

It is the study of meaning in language . It's a major branch of linguistics .

Q // Can '' word '' be a means of studying a language's semantics system ? Discuss

-Traditionally , it is assumed that ' words ' are the units which carry the meaning in a language – an impression which is reinforced by the way the vocabulary is listed in a dictionary . But this assumption is wrong for two reasons . first , meaning is carried by sentences not words , for example , presenting a single word such as '' table '' , there is little that can be said about what it means : does it refer to a piece of furniture ? or part of a printed page ? But if this word : '' table '' occurs in the sentence : '' she sat down at the table '' , it is clear that it is a piece of furniture while the word '' table '' in the sentence : '' she corrected the table '' involves the printing sense .

Secondly there is a problem over the ambiguous way in which the term '' word '' is used as walk , walks , walking and walked are all '' words '' , in one sense. Thus they are all different forms of the same ' word . the solution to terms lexeme or lexical item.

Q// Define the following with examples : a lexeme , semantic units , semantic fields , syntagmatic relationships , paradigmatic relationship, componential analysis , synonyms , antonyms , hyponymy , collocations , pragmatics .

A lexeme :-

It is the minimum distinctive unit in the semantic system of a language . It is often written with small capital to be identified and related by various grammatical realizations such as walk , walks , walked ,walking …etc .

Semantic units :-

They are more than one word expressions such as '' switch on '' , '' kick the bucket '' … etc.

Semantic fields :-

A language's vocabulary is said to be organized into areas of meaning , within which the lexemes relate to each other in specific ways . In Welsh , for instance the lexeme '' glas '' is used to correspond to '' blue '' , and also to some of the uses of green and grey , (grass and the sea).

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Syntagmatic relationship :-

The relationship that linguistic units (e.g. words , clauses) have with other units because they may occur together in a sequence , for example , a word may be said to have syntagmatic relations with the other words which occur in the sentence in which it appears .

For example : I   gave   Ali the   book .

= syntagmatic relations

Paradigmatic relations :-

The relations among words that could be substituted for it in the sentence .

For example : I **gave** Ali the book .

Passed

                                  handed = paradigmatic relations

  threw

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Componential Analysis :-

An approach to the study of meaning which analyzes a word into a set of meaning components or semantic features , for example , the meaning of the English word ' boy ' may be shown as :

< + human >< + male >< - adult >

Usually , componential analysis is applied to a group of related words which may differ from one another only by one or two components . This approach was developed in '' anthropological linguistics '' for the study of kinship and other terms in various languages .

Synonyms :-

A word which the same or nearly the same meaning as another word .

For example in English '' hide '' and '' conceal '' in :-

He hid the money under the bed.

He concealed the money under the bed .

Antonymy :-

A word which is opposite in meaning to another word .

For example , in English male and female , and big and small are antonyms .
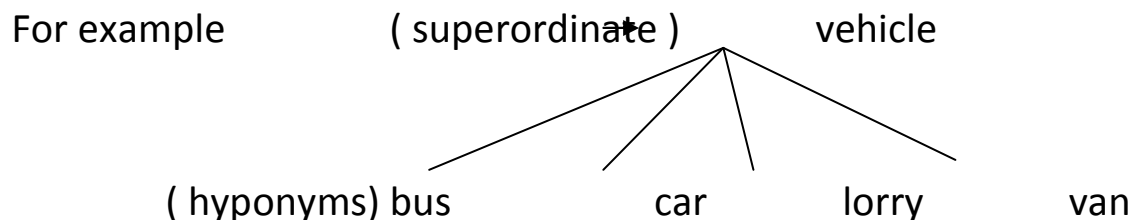
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Hyponymy :-

A relationship between two words , in which the meaning of one of the words , in which the meaning of one of the words includes the meaning of the other word .

For example , in English the words '' animal and dog '' are related in such a way that '' dog '' refers to a type of animal , and animal is a general term that includes dog and other types of animal .

The specific term '' dog '' is called a hyponym , and the general term '' animal '' is called a superordinate .

For example   (superordinate)   vehicle

(hyponyms) bus   car   lorry   van

Pragmatics :-

The study of the use of language in communication, particularly the relationships between sentences and contexts and situations in which they are used .

Pragmatics is sometimes contrasted with semantics , which deals with meaning without reference to the users and communicative functions of sentences , pragmatics studies the

factors which governs someone's choice of language , when they speak or write .(Crystal,1985)

Accordingly, and as clarified by Yule(2006:112), Pragmatics is the study of "invisible" meaning, or how we recognize what is meant even if it isn't said or written directly. Thus inferring what is meant needs the speakers' (or writers') dependents on a lot of shared assumptions and expectations when they try to communicate. The investigation of those assumptions and expectations provides us with some insights into how much people communicate more than what they openly state.

Collocation :-

The way lexemes keep company with each other , it refers to the restrictions on how words can be used together , for example which prepositions are used with particular verbs , or which adjectives are used together for example , in English the verb '' perform '' is used with '' operation '' , but not with '' discussion '' . '' rancid '' collocates with '' butter '' and '' bacon '' .

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Q// Can the meaning of a language be explained by the traditional views of meaning , where words were thought of as referring directly to ' things ' in the world or ' percepts ' in our minds ?

-The meaning of a language cannot be explained in this way. There are few lexemes which label the world directly (proper names are the main category of items which do) , and there are few occasions where it proves possible to explain the meaning of a lexeme by referring directly to the world , however , it would be impossible that whenever we wanted to talk about something, we should wait for the appropriate object to come into view in order for the meaning to be clear ! In order to convey meaning , we rather depend on the network of sense relationships , which the lexemes of a language have built up between them .

Q// How can '' semantic field '' be used by semanticists to produce good dictionaries ?

- According to '' semantic fields '' notion a language's vocabulary is said to be organized into areas of meaning within which the lexemes are related to each other in specific ways. In a good dictionary , for example , the lexeme '' BENEFIT'' was defined with reference to ''advantage '' and ''profit'' (amongst some other senses) ; ''advantage '' was defined with reference to ''increase'' and "obtain" , '' increase '' led to '' rise '' and "large" and so on . Sentences may also be provided to illustrate

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usage . Having such thorough explanation, we'll have a network of sense relationships linking the various lexemes in a language .

Q// How is semantic fields useful to the study of lexemes ?

-Semantic fields are a convenient way of comparing sets of lexemes in different languages , or sets of lexemes in two different historical periods in the same language , or sets of lexemes within different thematic areas of the same language . It is possible, for example , to study the vocabulary a language uses for such areas as vehicles , kinship or cooking and see what range of lexemes is involved and how they relate to each other .

Q// Semantic fields are not always easy to identify , as tere are many problems facing anyone who wishes to use the notion consistently in a larger-scale study . DiscussExplaining the alternative solutions.

- The analysis of lexemic relations can be made more precise by applying the distinction between paradigmatic relationships and syntagmatic relationships. Paradigmatic relationships obtain between lexemes at a certain point in a sentence ; syntagmatic relationships , on the other hand , obtain between lexemes at different points in a sentence.

Q// Define the following :- structural semantics ''and '' sense relation ''.

Structural semantics :- The study of the whole network of semantic relationships which can be identified through the use of both syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations .

Sense – relations :- The relationship between sentences such that we perceive their lexemes to be in some kind of systematic correspondence.

Q// what is meant by truth-conditional semantics is also known as '' Formal semantics '' ?

-To know the meaning of a sentence , it is argued , is to know the conditions under which the sentence is true or false . To study the logical form of sentences in relation to conditions which govern its use , is to engage in truth-conditional semantics .

Q// Can we understand the meaning of a sentence in isolation of the function or action it performs in the whole domain of social interaction ? Discuss .

-No , we can't . To be in a position to say '' I baptize … '' certain conditions must be met , particularly , there must be some kind of authority hold by the speaker , the speaker must want to perform the action , sincerely , and the listener , also want it to be done . Utterance like , I baptize …. Or I promise … or I name

the baby ... are called by J.L Austin ''performative utterances'' because they perform or do actions once they are uttered.

Felicity conditions : A term used in the theory of speech acts to refer to the criteria which must be satisfied if the speech act is to achieve its purpose.For example ,'' will you drive '' is inappropriate as a request if the speaker knows that the hearer has not learned to drive , and the mutual awareness of this inappropriateness would lead to an interpretation of a different order (e.g. as a joke , as sarcasm , etc) such utterance are said to be infelicitous .

Q// what is language & what is its main function ?

Language is the most frequently used and most highly developed form of human communication we possess . It is an act of communication basically used for the transmission of information of some kind – a '' message '' from a source to a receiver . In the case of language , both source and receiver are human , and the message is transmitted either vocally (by air) or graphically (by writing) .

Q//Why do linguists consider language as a distinctively human phenomenon ?

-This is because no animal signaling system displays the creative potential and complexity of structure which have been noted in human language.

Q// Not everything which would fall under "language" as a heading is language in the linguist's sense. Discuss.

-This is true as we may communicate with our mouth or with other parts of our face , or by making use of our senses . It is true that only the visual and vocal / auditory senses are frequently used, but nothing can prevent us from using other methods if they are appropriate to convey our message .

Q//what is semiotics ?

The study of all modalities of human communication. The two most highly structured modalities are the visual (or kinesics'), and the vocal/ auditory (the linguistic) .

Q//why do linguists restrict the term '' language '' to a vocal system of human communication ?

Despite the importance of the visual system of communication, it doesn't have the same structure or potential as the vocal . There is nothing like grammar , for instance , nor there is a very finite ' vocabulary ' of gestures in any culture. Therefore linguists do not call it language . They allow the visual a place in language only in the cases of signing (by the deaf for example) and of writing , which differs from other visual communicative activity in that it is usually an attempt to directly transcribe our speech in a one-to-one-way.

Q// Are all the sounds produced from our mouths linguistic ? Discuss with examples

There are many sounds , or aspects of sounds , which we utter that are not linguistic . for example a sneeze , or snore , or our breathing are audible vocal noises which do not communicate a message in the same sense as when we speak words or sentences . A sneeze may communicate the fact that we have cold , of course , but this is different sense of the word communication . It is communication despite it directly reflects a particular physiological state on our part , and has no meaning other than this , words , sentences , and the like are not tied down to our bodily state , uncontrolled , vocal noises of this kind lack internal structure or conventional meaning and are not therefore part of language .

Q// What is the difference between voice quality '' and '' accent from a linguistic point of view ?

Accent is a more general phenomenon used to refer to the totality of phonetic and phonological features a person has (including voice quality) particularly those non-idiosyncratic features of pronunciation . In other words , it refers to these sounds which could also be used by a number of other people & which inform us that someone comes from a particular region or social group .

'' voice quality '' tells us who someone is while ''accent'' tells us where they are from .

Accent then is capable of linguistic analysis , whereas idiosyncratic facets of vocal communication (including voice quality) are not considered as language .

Q// what is " Envoi " ?

It is a skeleton study of the history and present state of major linguistic themes . These themes include : phonetics , phonology , morphology , surface and deep syntax , semantics and pragmatics .

Linguistics and Other Fields:

A cardinal principle underlying the whole linguistic approach is that language is not an isolated phenomenon; it is part of society, and part of ourselves. It is a distinctive feature of human nature. Consequently, it is not possible to study language, using the methods of linguistics or any other, without studying or at least presupposing the study of other aspects of society, behavior, and experience. It has become obviously clear that linguistics overlaps in its subject matter with other academic studies and this overlap has become well appreciated over the last few years. In the past decade, for example, we have seen the developments of quite different interdisciplinary subjects, such as **sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, philosophical linguistics, biological linguistics, and mathematical linguistics.** These, as their titles suggest, refer to aspects of language which are relevant to study from two points

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of view(sociology and linguistics, psychology and linguistics and so on).

Sociolinguistics studies the ways in which language interacts with society. It is the study of the way in which language's structure changes in response to its different social functions, and the definition of what these functions are. 'Society' here is used to cover phenomena such as: race, nationality, more restricted regional, social and political groups, and the interactions of individuals within groups. To analyse a problem sociolinguistically implies being able to analyse it linguistically. Sociolinguistics makes use of the findings of linguistic theory and description in its work; and in one sense its success is dependent on in 'pure linguistics'. Sometimes distinct labels have been applied to various parts of this discipline such as 'Ethnolinguistics' which refers to the linguistic correlates and problems of ethnic groups. The term **'anthropological linguistics'** is sometimes distinguished from ' sociological linguistics', depending on one's particular views on anthropology and sociology. The former studies primitive cultures while the latter is more concerned with advanced political units**. 'Stylistics'** is another label which is sometimes distinguished, referring to the study of the distinctive linguistic characteristics of smaller social groupings such as those due to occupational or class differences. However, more usually stylistics refers to the study of the literary expression of a community, using linguistic methods.

The Second example of interdisciplinary overlap is **psycholinguistics.**The relation of linguistics to psychology has been the source of many discussions lately mainly due to Chomsky's particular emphasis on this issue. His view of linguistics, as discussed in his book *Language and Mind*, is the most important contribution linguistics can make to the study of the human mind. By this linguistics can be seen as a branch of cognitive psychology. It has a strong bond with psychology as it studies the extent to which language structures thinking, the extent to which talk about language 'simplicity' or 'complexity' can be given any meaningful psychology basis, the extent to which language is influenced by or affects things as memory, attention, recall and constraints on perception, and the extent to which language has a central role to play in the understanding of human development.

Psycholinguistics developed in the early sixties. Its early form covered the psychological implications of a wide area from acoustic phonetics to language pathology. However, these days it focuses on issues such as the investigation of the acquisition of language by children and how we can account for the phenomenon of language development in children at all. After long debate about how children acquire language and the order in which grammatical structures were acquired, it would now be generally agreed that imitation alone is not enough. Imitation is an important factor in the development of language, but it cannot be the major one. On the other hand, and as generative

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theory asserts, children's brain contain certain *innate* characteristics which 'pre-structure' them in the direction of language learning. To enable these *innate* features to develop into adult competence, children must be exposed to human language, i.e. they must be stimulated in order to respond.

There are many other applications of linguistics in field which can be grouped anonymously as 'applied linguistics'. Such as Foreign language teaching and learning, native language teaching, translation (either individually, or using machines), the many facets of telecommunications, lexicography and many more. Each of these fields selects its basic information and theoretical framework from the overall perspective which linguistics provides, and applies it to the clarification of some general area of human experience.