

## ***Lectures in Linguistics 1***

***Dep. Of English Language and Linguistics***

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Linguistics is the scientific, systematic, study of language. It studies language items that combine the characteristics of the phonological system with the syntactic system alongside the morphological system to analyze any language in the world and explain the various linguistic phenomena that a language contains.

A linguist is the skilled objective observer and consumer rather than producer of a language. He tries to analyze and explain linguistic phenomena such as the English vowel system or Arabic verbs rather than to make himself understood in London or in Baghdad.

Linguistics differ from traditional grammar in some ways :

1. Linguistics is descriptive as it describes language items by analyzing its phonological system, morphological system, and the syntactic system. While traditional grammarians try to prescribe rules of correctness depending on Latin language as basis for all other languages.
2. Linguists regard the spoken language as primary not the written. The spoken word precede the written everywhere in the world as babies learn speak before they learn to write, also the invention of the recording enabled linguists to explain and analyze native speakers utterances then to write down rules phonetics and grammar.
3. Linguistics does not force language into a Latin – based framework, as many traditional textbooks assumed that Latin provides a universal framework into which all languages fit.

4. Modern linguists say that an infinitive can be split by an adverb, for example; [ to humbly apologize ] where the infinitive [ to apologize ] is split by [ humbly ]. While traditional grammarians say it is impossible to split an infinitive.

**Question:**

What do we mean by the phrase that human language is innately guided?

Human infants are not born speaking, but they know how to acquire any language to which they are exposed to. Babies are drawn towards the noises coming out of human mouths, and they instinctively know how to analyze speech sounds.

**Why people talk?**

There are some reasons that people begin to use language :

1. Social chit-chat, which includes the meaningless small of everyday life.
2. The use of language for persuading and influencing others.
3. To communicate feelings and emotions.
4. To use language for purely aesthetic reasons such as writing poetry or to release nervous tension.