

Scope of Linguistics

Linguistics, as a study of language, covers a wide range of fields and topics. It not only studies Languages but looks at everything from the smallest units like phoneme and phonetics to larger units like sentences and syntax, pragmatics and semantics. Besides, a linguist has to concentrate on some branches such as- socio linguistics, psycho-linguistics, neuro-linguistics, historical-linguistics etc. Thus the scope of linguistics is a vast and huge one. A full knowledge of the various components of a language and their relations with the other languages, constitute the right scope of linguistics.

In the centre of linguistics lies phonetics. Phonology, Grammar and Semantics are the core of linguistics around which the branches like socio linguistics, psycho-linguistics, neuro-linguistics, historical-linguistics etc. revolve.

- Phonetics is the study of human speech sound. It studies how speech sounds are articulated, transmitted and perceived.
- Phonology is the study of the systematic patterns in the sound system of a language.
- Morphology is the grammar of words. It studies how morphemes are combined to form words.
- Syntax examines the structure of the sentences. It is the grammar of forming sentences.
- Semantics deals with the meaning of words phrases and sentences.
- Pragmatics studies the hidden meaning of words, phrases and sentences.
- Socio-linguistics studies the relationship between language and society. It studies language as a social property.
- Psycho-linguistics studies the relation between language and psychology. It studies the psychological factors enabling humans to acquire, use and understand language.
- Neuro-linguistics studies the language areas and structures in the brain.
- Historical-linguistics is the study of how languages evolve, die and revitalize.