

Can you summarise this applied linguistic inquiry that we will identify here. Before moving on, we need to mention or further horizon in applied linguistics. This latter horizon consists of subfields which are sometimes listed by textbooks and other reference sources as subdisciplines within applied linguistics, and which certainly address real-world problems in which language is a central issue, but which are not usually regarded as subfields of applied linguistics by practitioners in these fields themselves. Some of these fields, such as translation studies, lexicography (the study and practice of dictionary compilation) and stylistics (the study of how linguistic style varies across literary texts and other text types), have what might be called a semi-autonomous relationship with applied linguistics. While researchers in these fields rarely if ever think of themselves as applied, the important point to note is that this massive expansion of the applied linguistics curriculum has led to a somewhat confused situation, in which some people still understand applied linguistics in the narrow way discussed earlier (i.e. as the academic study of foreign language teaching) while others see it in the broader terms that we have just reviewed above. Similarly, there are MA programmes in applied linguistics that focus exclusively on ELT, whereas at other universities you can do an applied linguistics degree without focusing on ELT at all. In recognition of these divisions and contradictions that the Leppin Dictionary of Linguistic Terminology and Applied Linguistics cited earlier in this chapter defines applied linguistics in two different ways, as follows. Issues of justice and equity also inform two other important developments in applied linguistics, forensic linguistics and critical discourse analysis. The former focuses on applications of linguistic knowledge to the legal process, and the latter aims to identify and critique ways in which linguistic choices – often in the interests of powerful groups in society, and often in opposition to language practices – are used to manipulate public opinion, to promote racial disadvantage and discriminate against others. By 'mainstream' we mean educational contexts which are primarily funded and influenced by the state, rather than the English language teaching, which concerns the practices and concerns of teachers working in private language schools or for applied cultural exchange organisations such as the British Council or the Peace Corps. This 'new horizon' in applied linguistics spans several distinct content areas.