

A General Overview on Linguistics HELLO STUDENTS. We say then that in languages like English, wh-movement has occurred and the structure is: "What do you eat what?" Semantics- examines how meaning is encoded in a language. Semantics also looks at the ways in which the meanings of words can be related to each other. Here are a few of the ways in which words can be semantically related: o Synonymy – Words are synonymous/ synonyms when they can be used to mean the same thing (at least in some contexts – words are rarely fully identical in all contexts). Begin and start, Big and large, Youth and adolescent. o Antonymy Words are antonyms of one another when they have opposite meanings (again, at least in some contexts). Big and small, Come and go, Up and down. o Polysemy – A word is polysemous when it has two or more related meanings. In this case the word takes one form but can be used to mean two different things. In the case of polysemy, these two meanings must be related in some way, and not be two completely unrelated meanings of the word. Bright (shining) and bright (intelligent). Mouse (animal) and mouse (computer hardware). o Homophony – Homophony is similar to polysemy in that it refers to a single form of word with two meanings, however a word is a homophone when the two meanings are entirely unrelated. Bat (flying mammal) and bat (sports equipment). Pen (writing instrument) and pen (small cage) Morphology- the structure of words Morphology is a branch of linguistics which deals with the study of words; precisely the study of the internal structure of words. The term originates from the Greek and it deals with 'morph' which means 'shape' or 'form'. Morphology is a branch of linguistics that came into existence in 1859. The German linguist, August Schleicher, first made use of the term to describe the study of the form of words. Morphology deals with word formation out of morphemes. It is the study and description of word formation also is the system of word- forming elements and processes in a language. Morphemes are the building blocks of morphology and they are the smallest meaning-bearing units of language. For instance, by adding the prefix MENT to the verb establish we will form a noun: establishment. Phonetics-Properties of sound Phonetics is about the physical aspect of sounds. It studies the production, transmission, and perception of speech sounds called phones in all living languages. A phonetician might, for example, look at how stress manifests in a language. In English, the stressed word in a normal sentence is louder and higher pitched: "ANna likes bananas." o It deals with both the study of particular languages and the search for general properties common to all languages or large groups of language o It also includes explorations into the nature of language variation (i. e., dialects), since languages change over time There's a quote by Lynne Murphy that "asking a linguist how many languages s/he speaks is like asking a doctor how many diseases s/he has had". As linguists, languages (and language) are our objects of study. We learn to look at languages as data and recognize their patterns, just as doctors learn to recognize signs and symptoms of diseases. Whether they have had the disease before or not is irrelevant. Many people come to linguistics from other areas: math, computer science, philosophy, anthropology, psychology, and cognitive science, just to name a few popular related fields. However, one should definitely know that a linguist is not obliged necessarily a polyglot. The five main branches of Linguistics: Syntax – the study of sentence structure English and many western European languages have a phenomenon called "wh-movement." THIS IS DR DIB YOUR LINGUISTICS TEACHER SO AS A STARTING POINT IT IS BETTER IF I EXPLAIN WHAT IS THE MODULE ABOUT

SINCE Many students start college with no idea what linguistics is, and it's possible they won't even try to look for an answer throughout their college career. Linguistics is also not about prescribing what grammar is "correct". Rather, we describe language and its flexibility. If someone is a native speaker of a language, their grammar cannot be "wrong". Linguists observe patterns within a language and across languages to try to understand what principles drive our brains' comprehension and production of language. If we ask a question though, it's pronounced with a lower pitch: "ANna likes bananas?"

Phonology – the study of sound systems and how they pattern For example, in English, there are many examples of t's in the middle of words that sound quite different from t's at the beginning or end of words. Listen to the t's in "toted" and you'll hear that they don't sound the same. However, it is true that many (though not all) of us linguists become interested in linguistics because we like learning languages and decide to take an introduction to linguistics course to find out what it's about. So Southern English, standard American English, African American Vernacular English, London English, Cockney English, etc. THE PREVIOUS DEFINITION IS A DEFINITION THAT YOU SHOULD BEAR IN MIND SINCE IT IS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS LINGUISTICS Linguistics aims to understand how the language faculty of the mind works and to describe how language itself works. Today, I'll demystify and explain exactly what linguistics is and hopefully encourage you to DO MORE RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT! SO USUALLY To reply to QUESTION 1 and 2: What linguistics is not : Linguistics is not about learning as many languages as you can; there are many linguists who can only speak one or two languages. There isn't a requirement to learn multiple languages. Think about the sentence "I eat an apple" as a possible response to the question "What do you eat?" The word what corresponds to apple, but it shows up at the beginning of the sentence. In many languages, though, the wh-word corresponds to the same position as the word it refers to. For example, in Chinese you would say "I eat apple" in response to "You eat what?" When I tell people that I'm TEACHING linguistics, there are three main QUESTIONS that I hear: 1) So how many languages do you speak? 2) Ooh, you must be a grammar Nazi! are all legitimate grammars with their own regular rules. Linguistics is the scientific study of the NATURE of the language. o Linguistics is concerned with the NATURE of language and communication. Now let's reply to QUESTION 3! So what is linguistics? 3) What is that exactly? wh-words .are the question words who, which, what, where, when, why, and how