

Unit - III

LEVELS OF LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

In studying language which is the subject-matter of Linguistics. We mark or sub divide the area in order to study it in an analytical and systematic way. Language has a hierarchical structure. This means that it is made up of units which are themselves made up of smaller units which are made of still smaller units till we have the smallest indivisible unit.

Levels of Analysis

Phonetics and phonology

Morphology

Syntax

Semantics

Discourse

Levels of Structure.

Sounds

Word Formation

Sentence Formation

Meanings

Connected sentences.

Phonetics

Thus phonetics studies language at the level of sounds: How sounds are articulated by the human speech mechanism and received by the auditory mechanism, how sounds can be distinguished and characterised by the manner in which they are produced.

Phonology

Phonology studies the combination and sounds into organised units of speech, the formation of syllables and larger units. It describes the sound system of a particular language and the combination and distribution the sounds which occur in that language.

Morphology.

Morphology studies the patterns of formation of words by the combination of sounds into minimal distinctive units of meaning called **Morphology**. A morphology cannot be broken up because if it is, it will no longer make sense, e.g. Morpheme **bat** is made up three sounds: /b/ /æ/ and /t/.

Syntax.

Syntax is the level at which we

study how words combine to form phrases.

Phrases combine to form clauses, and clauses join to make sentences. A sentence must be composed of these elements arranged in a particular order. Syntax also attempts to describe how these elements function in the sentence, i.e., what is their role in the sentence.

Semantics.

Semantics deals with the level of meaning in language. It attempts to analyse the structure of meaning in a language, e.g. how words similar or different are related: it attempts to show these inter-relationships through forming categories. Semantics tries to give an account of both word and sentence meaning.

Morphology and Lexicology.

Lexicology

Lexicology studies the manner in which lexical items are grouped together as other compilation of dictionaries.

Micro-Linguistic

This can be called a Micro-Linguistic Perspective. However, some take a broader, or Micro-Linguistic view which includes the order levels of analysis mentioned above, as well as other aspects of language and its relationship with many areas of human activity.

BRANCHES OF LINGUISTICS.

The core of linguistic studies is the study of language structure at different levels as discussed above. In the growth of modern linguistics as an autonomous field of knowledge, it has been necessary to emphasize this aspect of linguistics since no other field of study describes language structure systematically and completely.

Psycholinguistic.

Psycholinguistic is concerned with the learning of language at various stages: the early acquisition of a first language by children and later stages in acquisition of first and other languages.

Sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics is the study of language variation and change - how varieties of language are formed when the speakers belong to a geographical region, social class, social situation and occupation.

Anthropological Linguistics

The evolution of language in human society and its role in the formation of culture is another aspect of language, society and culture. This is studied in Anthropological Linguistics.

Literary Stylistics

That is, we may describe its features at the levels of phonology. This kind of study is called Literary Stylistics.

Relationship between Branches of Linguistics.

