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Branches of linguistics

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Linguistics

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, including its structure, meaning, and use. It is an interdisciplinary field that combines elements from philosophy, psychology, computer science, anthropology, and cognitive science. Linguists study language at different levels of analysis, including phonetics (the sounds of language), phonology (the sound patterns of language), syntax (the structure of sentences), semantics (the meaning of words and sentences), and pragmatics (the use of language in context).

One of the key goals of linguistics is to understand how people acquire, process, and use language. This includes how children learn their first language and how adults learn new languages, as well as how the brain processes language. Linguists also study the diversity of languages across the world, including their history, development, and relationship to one another.

Another important area of linguistics is the study of language change, including how languages evolve over time and how they are influenced by social, cultural, and historical factors. This can involve tracing the origins of language, reconstructing proto-languages, and studying the relationships between different languages and language families.

Linguistics has practical applications in fields such as education, language planning and policy, speech therapy, and natural language processing. For example, understanding how children learn language can inform educational practices, while research on language change can inform language planning and policy decisions. Additionally, advances in natural language processing have led to the development of technologies such as machine translation, speech recognition, and text-to-speech systems.

In conclusion, linguistics is a broad and fascinating field that provides a deep understanding of language and its role in human communication and cognition.

Characteristics

Linguistics has several characteristics that make it a unique and interesting field of study. Some of these include:

1. **Interdisciplinary nature:** Linguistics draws on insights and methods from a range of disciplines, including philosophy, psychology, computer science, anthropology, and cognitive science.
2. **Scientific approach:** Linguistics uses a scientific approach to study language, including observation, experimentation, and analysis.
3. **Focus on language as a system:** Linguistics views language as a system, with its own rules, patterns, and structure. This focus on the structure and patterns of language helps linguists understand how it is processed and used by the human mind.
4. **Study of linguistic diversity:** Linguistics recognizes and studies the rich diversity of languages across the world, including their history, development, and relationship to one another.
5. **Concern with language use:** Linguistics is concerned not only with the structure of language, but also with how it is used in real-life contexts, including social, cultural, and historical factors that influence language use.

6. Practical applications: Linguistics has practical applications in fields such as education, language planning and policy, speech therapy, and natural language processing.
7. Dynamic and evolving: Linguistics is a dynamic and evolving field, with new research and insights constantly emerging and shaping our understanding of language and its role in human communication and cognition.

Subfield

Linguistics is a broad field that encompasses several branches, each of which focuses on a different aspect of language. Some of the major branches of linguistics include:

1. Phonetics: The study of the sounds of language, including how they are produced, transmitted, and perceived.
2. Phonology: The study of the sound patterns of language, including how sounds are organized and used in different languages.
3. Morphology: The study of the structure of words, including how they are formed and how they change over time.
4. Syntax: The study of sentence structure and the rules that govern the combination of words in sentences.
5. Semantics: The study of meaning, including the meaning of words, sentences, and larger discourse units.
6. Pragmatics: The study of language use in context, including how meaning is influenced by social, cultural, and historical factors.
7. Historical Linguistics: The study of the history and development of language, including the relationships between different languages and language families.
8. Sociolinguistics: The study of language and society, including the role of language in social interaction, language variation and change, and language policies and planning.
9. Psycholinguistics: The study of the psychological processes involved in language use, including language acquisition, processing, and production.
10. Computational Linguistics: The study of the computational and mathematical aspects of language, including the development of natural language processing and computational models of language.

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These branches of linguistics overlap and interact with one another, and many linguists work at the intersection of multiple branches.

All subfields' details and examples

Certainly, here is a more detailed explanation of each of the branches of linguistics along with examples:

1. **Phonetics:** The study of the sounds of language, including how they are produced, transmitted, and perceived. This branch of linguistics focuses on the physical aspects of speech sounds, including the articulation and acoustics of speech sounds. For example, phonetics might study the differences between English "r" and "l" sounds, or between the different vowel sounds in Spanish.
2. **Phonology:** The study of the sound patterns of language, including how sounds are organized and used in different languages. This branch of linguistics focuses on the abstract, underlying sound patterns of a language, and how these patterns can change over time. For example, phonologists might study the different ways in which the sounds of a language can combine to form words, or how sound changes can lead to new words and new pronunciations over time.
3. **Morphology:** The study of the structure of words, including how they are formed and how they change over time. This branch of linguistics focuses on the internal structure of words and the rules for combining morphemes (the smallest units of meaning in a language) to form words. For example, morphologists might study the plural formation in English, or the formation of the past tense in Spanish.
4. **Syntax:** The study of sentence structure and the rules that govern the combination of words in sentences. This branch of linguistics focuses on the rules for combining words into grammatical sentences and the structures that result from these combinations. For example, syntacticians might study the differences between simple and complex sentences, or between active and passive voice in English.
5. **Semantics:** The study of meaning, including the meaning of words, sentences, and larger discourse units. This branch of linguistics focuses on the meaning of language and how meaning is created and conveyed through words, sentences, and larger discourse units. For example, semanticists might study the meaning of idioms, or the ways in which words can have multiple meanings in different contexts.
6. **Pragmatics:** The study of language use in context, including how meaning is influenced by social, cultural, and historical factors. This branch of linguistics focuses on the ways in which meaning is influenced by context, including the speaker's intentions, the situation, and the social and cultural background of the speaker and listener. For example, pragmatists might study the use of politeness in conversation, or the ways in which sarcasm is conveyed in speech.
7. **Historical Linguistics:** The study of the history and development of language, including the relationships between different languages and language families. This branch of linguistics focuses on the ways in which languages change over time and how different languages are related to one another. For example, historical linguists might study the relationships between English and German, or the development of the Romance languages from Latin.

8. **Sociolinguistics:** The study of language and society, including the role of language in social interaction, language variation and change, and language policies and planning. This branch of linguistics focuses on the ways in which language is used in social context, including the relationships between language, culture, and identity, and the ways in which language can reflect and shape social attitudes and power relations. For example, sociolinguists might study the differences in language use between men and women, or the ways in which language is used to construct and maintain social identities.
9. **Psycholinguistics:** The study of the psychological processes involved in language use, including language acquisition, processing, and production. This branch of linguistics focuses on the ways in which the human brain processes language, including how people learn to understand and produce language, and how language is processed and remembered in the mind. For example, psycholinguists might study the cognitive processes involved in reading, or the ways in which language processing is affected by age, experience, or other factors.
10. **Computational Linguistics:** The study of the computational and mathematical aspects of language, including the development of natural language processing and computational models of language. This branch of linguistics focuses on the development of computer programs and algorithms that can process, analyze, and generate human language. For example, computational linguists might develop machine translation systems, or algorithms for automatically summarizing text.

These branches of linguistics provide a broad and interdisciplinary view of language, encompassing everything from the physical sounds of speech to the cultural and social context of language use, and from the development of language over time to the ways in which computers can process and understand language.

Lastly: What is Branches of Linguistics.

Linguistics is the scientific study of language and its structure, use, and development. As a discipline, linguistics is highly interdisciplinary, drawing on insights from fields such as psychology, philosophy, computer science, and anthropology, among others. Within linguistics, there are several branches that focus on specific aspects of language, each with its own set of theories, methods, and research interests. Some of the main branches of linguistics include:

1. **Phonetics:** The study of the sounds of language, including the physical properties of speech sounds, such as how they are produced, transmitted, and perceived by the listener. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the description and analysis of the sounds of speech, including vowel and consonant sounds, stress and intonation, and the sounds of speech in different languages.
2. **Phonology:** The study of the sound patterns of language, including the rules for combining sounds to form words, and the ways in which these sound patterns vary across languages. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the abstract and underlying sound patterns of language, and the ways in which these patterns are used to create meaning.

3. **Morphology:** The study of the structure of words, including the rules for combining morphemes (the smallest units of meaning in a language) to form words, and the ways in which words change over time. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the internal structure of words, and the ways in which words can be transformed to convey different meanings.
4. **Syntax:** The study of sentence structure, including the rules for combining words to form grammatical sentences, and the ways in which sentences are used to convey meaning. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the ways in which words are combined to form sentences, and the ways in which sentence structure can be used to convey different meanings.
5. **Semantics:** The study of meaning, including the meaning of words, sentences, and larger discourse units, and the ways in which meaning is conveyed through language. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the meaning of language, and the ways in which meaning is created and conveyed through words, sentences, and larger discourse units.
6. **Pragmatics:** The study of language use in context, including the ways in which meaning is influenced by the speaker's intentions, the situation, and the social and cultural background of the speaker and listener. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the ways in which meaning is influenced by context, and the ways in which language can be used to convey different meanings in different contexts.
7. **Historical Linguistics:** The study of the history and development of language, including the relationships between different languages and language families, and the ways in which languages change over time. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the ways in which languages develop and evolve, and the relationships between different languages and language families.
8. **Sociolinguistics:** The study of language and society, including the role of language in social interaction, language variation and change, and language policies and planning. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the ways in which language is used in social contexts, and the relationships between language, culture, and identity.
9. **Psycholinguistics:** The study of the psychological processes involved in language use, including language acquisition, processing, and production. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the ways in which the human brain processes language, and the psychological processes involved in language use.
10. **Computational Linguistics:** The study of the computational and mathematical aspects of language, including the development of natural language processing and computational models of language. This branch of linguistics is concerned with the development of computer.