

ЗАХІДНОУКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
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Кафедра іноземних мов та інформаційно-комунікаційних технологій

Short Glossary of Linguistic Terms

з курсу «Мовознавство» для студентів

освітньої програми: «Бізнес-комунікації та переклад»

СПЕЦІАЛЬНОСТІ 035 - «ФІЛОЛОГІЯ»

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Короткий глосарій лінгвістичних термінів з курсу «Мовознавство» освітньо-професійної програми «Бізнес-комунікації та переклад» спеціальності 035 «Філологія»: Тернопіль: ФО-П Шпак В. Б. 2023. 40с.

Укладачі:

Тетяна П'ЯТНИЧКА – кандидат філологічних наук, доцент кафедри іноземних мов та інформаційно-комунікаційних технологій Західноукраїнського національного університету;

Світлана РИБАЧОК – кандидат філологічних наук, доцент кафедри іноземних мов та інформаційно-комунікаційних технологій Західноукраїнського національного університету.

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Відповідальний за випуск:

Людмила КРАЙНЯК – кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, завідувач кафедри іноземних мов та інформаційно-комунікаційних технологій Західноукраїнського національного університету.

Глосарій призначений для пояснення термінів, котрі формують навички стандартизованого мовлення у галузі мовознавства. Він містить визначення понять, що охоплюють граматику, фонетику, лексику, семантику та інші аспекти мови. Збірка допоможе студентам зрозуміти спеціалізовану лексику та термінологію, яка використовується в лінгвістиці, і таким чином полегшить писемне та усне спілкування у рамках визначеної сфери, а також забезпечить точне й однозначне використання термінів у наукових дослідженнях і публікаціях.

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A

accent:

aspects of pronunciation that identify where a speaker is from, in contrast to dialect.

acoustic phonetics:

the study of the physical properties of speech as sound waves.

acquisition:

the gradual development of ability in a first or second language by using it naturally in communicative situations.

acronym:

a new word formed from the initial letters of other words (e.g. AIDS: *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*).

affixation:

the process of adding derivational suffixes and prefixes to a word.

affix:

a bound morpheme such as un- or -less added to a word (e.g. unhappy, homeless).

affricate:

a consonant produced by stopping then releasing the airflow through a narrow opening (e.g. the first and last sounds in church).

agglutinative:

languages such as Turkish that have a very complex internal structure. Words contain many affixes.

agreement:

the grammatical connection between two parts of a sentence, as in the connection between a subject (Linguistics) and the form of a verb (explores).

allomorphs:

Predictable variations in the pronunciation of morphemes. For instance, the plural morpheme in English is /s/ following nouns ending in an unvoiced sound (e.g. cats) and /z/ following a voiced sound (e.g. dogs).

allophones:

predictable variations in the pronunciation of phonemes. For instance, /p/ is aspirated at the beginning of a syllable, as in *pot*, but unaspirated elsewhere in a syllable, as in *spot* and *top*.

alphabet (alphabetic writing):

a way of writing in which one symbol represents one sound segment.

alternate sign language:

a system of hand signals used in a specific context where speech cannot be used (by people who can speak), in contrast to a primary sign language.

alveolar:

a consonant produced with the front part of the tongue on the alveolar ridge (e.g. the first and last sounds in *pot*).

analogy:

a process of forming a new word to be similar in some way to an existing word.

anaphora (anaphoric expressions):

use of pronouns (it) and noun phrases with the (the puppy) to refer back to something already mentioned.

anomia:

a language disorder in which it is difficult to find words, often associated with Wernicke's aphasia.

antecedent:

the first mention of someone or something later referred to via anaphora.

antonymy:

the lexical relation in which words have opposite meanings ("happy" is an antonym of "unhappy").

aphasia:

an impairment of language function due to localized brain damage that leads to difficulty in understanding and/or producing language.

approximants:

a manner of articulation associated with sounds such as /w/ beginning which in which the airstream in the oral cavity flows freely.

aspect:

Time viewed on a continuum. English has two aspects. The progressive is marked by the -ing participle form of a verb (e.g. be walking) and indicates continuous time. The perfective is marked on verbs by the -ed participle (e.g. have walked) and indicates a period of time from either the past to the present or the past to some other event in the past.

apparent time:

the idea that language variation is stratified by age: younger speakers will use newer forms more recently introduced into a language, while older speakers will use older, more established forms that they began using when they were younger.

applied linguistics:

the study of a large range of practical issues involving language in general and second language learning in particular.

arbitrariness:

a property of language describing the fact that there is no natural connection between a linguistic form and its meaning.

arcuate fasciculus:

a bundle of nerve fibres connecting Broca's area and Wernicke's area in the left hemisphere of the brain.

articulatory parameters:

the four key aspects of visual information used in the description of signs (shape, orientation, location and movement).

articulatory phonetics: the study of how speech sounds are produced.

aspiration:

a puff of air that sometimes accompanies the pronunciation of a stop. A sound, such as /t/ in tack, whose articulation involves a puff of air leaving the mouth.

assimilation:

the process whereby a feature of one sound becomes part of another during speech production.

associative meaning: the type of meaning that people might connect with the use of words (e.g. snake = “devil, danger, pain”) that is not part of conceptual meaning.

audiolingual method:

a mid-twentieth-century approach to language teaching, with repetitive drills used to develop fluent spoken language as a set of habits.

auditory phonetics:

the study of the perception of speech sounds by the ear, also called “perceptual phonetics”.

B

babbling:

the use of syllable sequences (*ba-ba*) and combinations (*ma-ga*) by young children in their first year.

back-channels:

the use of words (*yeah*) and sounds (*hmm*) by listeners while someone else is speaking.

backformation:

the process of reducing a word such as a noun to a shorter version and using it as a new word such as a verb (e.g. *to typewrite from a typewriter; to babysit from a babysitter*).

background knowledge:

information that is not in a text, but is used from memory by a reader to understand the text.

base:

a free morpheme to which affixes can be potentially added. In the words *dislikeable*, *unreadable* the base is *like* and *read*.

beats:

gestures involving short quick movements of the hands or fingers that go along with the rhythm of talk.

bidialectal:

being capable of speaking two dialects.

bilabial: a consonant produced by using both lips (e.g. the first and last sounds in pub).

bilingual: a term used to describe a native speaker of two languages or a country with two official languages, in contrast to monolingual.

bilingualism:
the state of having two languages.

blending:
the process of combining the beginning of one word and the end of another word to form a new word (e.g. brunch from breakfast and lunch).

borrowing:
the process of taking words from other languages. Words that have entered a language from another language. English has many words from Greek (e.g. *telephone*) and Latin (e.g. *gymnasium*).

bound morpheme:

- a morpheme that cannot stand alone but needs to be attached to a free morpheme. The word *premeasured* contains two bound morphemes: *pre-* and *-ed*.
- a morpheme such as *un-* or *-ed* that cannot stand alone and must be attached to another form (e.g. *undressed*).

broadening:
a semantic change in which a word is used with a more general meaning (e.g. *foda* (*animal fodder*) → *food* (any kind)), in contrast to narrowing.

broad reference:
reference to lengthy stretches of text. For instance, if one person utters, *Would you like to have dinner and see a movie*, and another replies *Yes, I'd like that*, the pronoun *that* refers back not to a single noun phrase, but to the entire sequence *to have dinner and see a movie*.

broad transcription:
a phonetic transcription that captures only phonemic contrasts in words. Compare with narrow transcription.

Broca's aphasia:

a language disorder in which speech production is typically reduced, distorted, slow and missing grammatical markers.

Broca's area:

a part of the brain in the left hemisphere involved in speech production.

C**calque:**

a type of borrowing in which each element of a word is translated into the borrowing language (e.g. gratte-ciel "scrape-sky" for skyscraper)

caregiver speech:

speech addressed to young children by the adult(s) or older children who are looking after them

case:

inflections or individual words indicating the grammatical role that a word plays in a clause. In Modern English, pronouns are marked for three cases: nominative (or subjective; e.g. I, he, she, they), accusative (or objective; e.g. me, him, her, them), and genitive (or possessive; e.g. my/mine, his, her/hers, their/theirs). Nouns are marked for only one case, the genitive (e.g. child's, person's). Other languages have additional cases, such as dative or ablative.

category:

a group with certain features in common

characters:

forms used in Chinese writing

classifiers: grammatical markers that indicate the type or "class" of a noun

clause:

a syntactic unit that can be analysed into clause functions. For instance, *The car is old* is a clause because it contains a subject, *The car*; a predicate, *is*; and a subject complement, *old*.

clause function:

functions such as subject, predicate, and object that indicate relationships between elements in a clause. The noun phrase *the car* is subject in *The car is broken* but object in *I drove the car*.

cleft sentence:

a sentence containing the sequence it + be + NP + relative clause, as in *It was the door that I closed*. Cleft sentences are used to emphasize some element in the sentence, such as *the door* in the previous example.

clipping:

the process of reducing a word of more than one syllable to a shorter form (e.g. *ad* from *advertisement*)

closed class:

word classes (e.g. articles, prepositions, auxiliary verbs) to which new members are never added.

closed register:

a register with a very fixed structure that varies very little. For instance, buying lunch meat in a delicatessen (a service encounter) involves a series of exchanges between the seller and the customer that are highly predictable (e.g. “*What can I get you?*”).

closed syllable:

a syllable that ends with a consonant or coda.

coarticulation:

the process of making one sound virtually at the same time as the next sound.

coda:

the part of a syllable after the vowel

cognates:

words in different languages that have a similar form and meaning (e.g. English *friend* and German *Freund*)

cognate vocabulary:

vocabulary that languages share having a common origin in an ancestral language. For instance, words for *father* in languages such as Spanish (*padre*), French (*père*), and German (*Vater*) are all cognates because they originated in a common ancestral language that Spanish, French, German, and English share: Indo-European.

cognitive category:

a category used in the organization of how we think.

coherence:

the connections that create a meaningful interpretation of texts; a text that is meaningful and that makes “sense”. The two sentences *It was sunny and warm today. Therefore, I wore a winter coat* do not form a coherent sequence because wearing a winter coat is not a logical consequence of the weather being sunny and warm. A more coherent alter-native would be *Therefore, I wore a short-sleeve shirt*.

cohesion:

the ties and connections that exist within texts; achieved in a text containing explicit markers indicating relationships between various parts of the text. In the sentences *My brother is a doctor. He works at a nearby hospital* the pronoun *He* in the second sentence creates a cohesive link with the first sentence because it refers back to *My brother* in the first sentence.

cohesive ties:

the individual connections between words and phrases in a text.

co-hyponyms:

A group of words, such as *chair, bed, dresser, and couch*, that are each hyponyms of a more general word, in this case *furniture*.

coinage:

the invention of new words (e.g. xerox).

collocations:

- words that commonly occur together. For instance, the sentence *I strongly agree* contains two words, *strongly and agree*, that commonly co-occur in this context. Other words could certainly follow *strongly*, but are much less likely to do so than *agree* and other words, such as *disagree or dislike*, expressing opinions.
- a relationship between words that frequently occur together (e.g. salt and pepper).

commissive:

a speech act that commits one to doing something: I promise to send you my latest novel or I will make dinner at 5:00.

comparative method:

A method for determining what language families particular languages belong to. The method is heavily dependent on comparisons of cognate vocabulary as a means

of determining whether languages should be grouped in the same or different language families.

competence:

The unconscious knowledge of rules that all speakers of a language possess that allows them to produce grammatical constructions.

componential analysis:

the process of describing the meaning of a word by developing semantic features to define the word. For instance, the word *woman* can be defined with the features + adult and + female.

compounding:

- creating a new word by combining two free morphemes together:
paper + clip → paper clip. The meaning of a compound is not simply the sum of the meanings of the two morphemes upon which the compound is based.
- the process of combining two (or more) words to form a new word (e.g. waterbed).

conjunction:

- a type of cohesion in which expressions such as *therefore* or *on the other hand* mark relationships between parts of texts.
- a word such as *and* or *because* used to make connections between words, phrases and sentences

consonant:

a speech sound produced by restricting the airflow in some way.

consonantal alphabet:

a way of writing in which each symbol represents a consonant sound.

consonant cluster:

two or more consonants in sequence.

constituency:

a syntactic notion that certain groups of words form natural groupings. For instance, the clause *The class met in the lab* can be traditionally divided on one level into two main constituents: the subject, *The class*, and the predicate, *met in the lab*. However, the preposition *in* and the article *the* form no natural grouping: *in the*. Therefore, these two words are not a constituent.

content word:

nouns, verbs, adjectives, and some adverbs that, unlike function words such as *the* or *very*, are fully meaningful.

conversation analysis:

the analysis of how conversations are organized and structured, focusing on such features of conversation as turn-taking.

conversational implicature:

the additional meaning that results when one of Grice's maxims of the cooperative principle is violated. If speaker A asks Do you like my new shirt and tie, and Speaker B replies I like the shirt, Speaker A will infer that Speaker B did not like the tie because Speaker B failed to mention it in his reply. In other words, Speaker B's reply was not informative enough, leading to a conversational implicature.

conversion:

the process of changing the function of a word, such as a noun to a verb, as a way of forming new words, also known as "category change" or "functional shift" (e.g. vacation in They're vacationing in Florida).

cooing:

the earliest use of speech-like sounds by an infant in the first few months.

cooperative principle:

the philosopher H. Paul Grice's theory that communication among individuals is cooperative. He proposed various maxims specifying precisely how communication is cooperative. For instance, his maxim of quantity stipulates that what we say should be maximally informative: we should not say too much or too little. If we violate a maxim, a conversational implicature results.

coordinating conjunctions:

the conjunction and, or, and but that link phrases and clauses.

copula:

the verb *be* used as a lexical verb in a clause, as in *The building is very old.*

corpus linguistics:

the study of language in use by analysing the occurrence and frequency of forms in a large collection of texts typically stored in a computer

count and non-count nouns:

count nouns can be counted: girl, girls. Non-count nouns cannot be counted and therefore do not have a plural form: furniture. Some words, such as *water*, can be

both a count noun (“*We’ll have two waters at this table*”) and a non-count noun (“*We’re out of water*”).

creole:

a pidgin that has become a first language. For instance, Jamaican Creole is a first language spoken by the descendants of slaves brought to Jamaica from Africa. It is a mixture of English and the African languages that the ancestors of the original slaves spoke.

cultural transmission:

the process whereby knowledge of a language is passed from one generation to the next culture: socially acquired knowledge.

cuneiform:

a way of writing created by pressing a wedge-shaped implement into soft clay.

D

deictics:

gestures used to point at things or people.

deixis (deictic expressions):

using words such as *this* or *here* as a way of “pointing” with language.

dental:

a consonant produced with the tongue tip behind the upper front teeth (e.g. the first sound in *that*).

derivation:

the process of forming new words by adding affixes.

derivational morpheme:

a bound morpheme such as *-ish* used to make new words or words of a different grammatical category (e.g. *boyish*), in contrast to an inflectional morpheme.

descriptive approach:

an approach to grammar that is based on a description of the structures actually used in a language, not what should be used, in contrast to the prescriptive approach

diachronic variation:

differences resulting from change over a period of time, in contrast to synchronic variation.

dialect:

aspects of the grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation of a variety of a language, in contrast to accent.

dialect boundary:

a line representing a set of isoglosses, used to separate one dialect area from another.

dialect continuum:

the gradual merging of one regional variety of a language into another.

dialectology:

the study of dialects dichotic listening: an experiment in which a listener hears two different sounds simultaneously, each through a different earphone.

digraph: a combination of letters used in writing for a single sound (e.g. “ph” for /f/) diphthong: a sound formed by combining two vowel sounds (e.g. boy).

direct speech act:

an action in which the form used (e.g. interrogative) directly matches the function (e.g. question) performed by a speaker with an utterance, in contrast to an indirect speech act.

discourse analysis:

the study of language beyond the sentence, in text and conversation

displacement:

a property of language that allows users to talk about things and events not present in the immediate environment.

divergence:

adopting a speech style that emphasizes social distance by using forms that are different from those used by the person being talked to, as a form of speech accommodation, in contrast to convergence.

duality:

a property of language whereby linguistic forms have two simultaneous levels of sound production and meaning, also called “double articulation”.

E

elision:

the process of leaving out a sound segment in the pronunciation of a word.

emblems:

non-verbal signals such as “thumbs up” (= things are good) that function like fixed phrases with conventional interpretations

epenthesis [e'penθɪsɪs]:

a sound change involving the addition of a sound to a word (e.g. timr →timber).

eponym:

a word derived from the name of a person or place (e.g. sandwich).

etymology:

the study of the origin and history of words

external change:

influences from the outside that cause changes in a language, in contrast to internal change.

F

face-threatening act:

in politeness theory, an utterance that undermines the face of the individual to whom the utterance is directed. For instance, if three people are speaking and one says to another, “*You look horrible today,*” the embarrassment that this utterance causes results in a face-threatening act.

filled pause:

a break in the flow of speech, using sounds such as *em* and *er*.

finger-spelling:

a system of hand configurations used to represent the letters of the alphabet in sign language.

fixed reference:

a property of a communication system whereby each signal is fixed as relating to one particular object or occasion

flap:

a sound produced with the tongue tip briefly touching the alveolar ridge.

foreigner talk:

a way of using a language with non-native speakers that is simpler in structure and vocabulary.

foreign language:

an additional language that has no official status. English is a foreign language in Germany because while it is commonly taught in schools, it is not used in any official capacity (e.g. in government or courts of law).

form:

all word classes, phrases, clauses, and sentences have a particular form. Most nouns, for instance, can be pluralized by adding -s. Verbs take particular verb endings, such as -ed or -ing. A relative clause is headed by a relative pronoun, such as who or which. Similar types of descriptions can be given of any linguistic construction.

free morpheme:

- a morpheme that can stand by itself as a single word.
- morpheme such as cat or house that can stand alone.

fricative:

- a consonant produced by almost blocking the airflow (e.g. the first and last sounds in five).
- a manner of articulation associated with consonants such as /s/ in sip and /z/ in zip in which the airstream is constricted in the oral cavity, leading to a certain degree of turbulence.

function word:

words such as the, very, and, and of that have little meaning by themselves, but indicate grammatical relationships. For instance, when the is placed before a noun, as in The office is closed, the marks the noun as definite and specific.

functional morpheme:

a free morpheme that is used as a function word, such as a conjunction (and) or a preposition (in).

fusional:

a language containing a number of inflections that mark such distinctions as case, number, and gender.

G

gender:

a term used in three ways: (1) a biological distinction between male and female, also called natural gender; (2) a distinction between classes of nouns as masculine, feminine (or neuter), also called grammatical gender; (3) a distinction between the social roles of men and women, also called social gender.

generative grammar:

a set of rules defining the possible sentences in a language.

genetic system of classification:

a system of language classification using the comparative method. Languages are grouped into families that have parent and sibling languages. English is a member of the Germanic language family, a family having many sibling languages, including not just English but German, Dutch, and Swedish.

gestures:

use of the hands, typically while speaking.

glides:

sounds produced with the tongue in motion to or from a vowel sound, also called “semi-vowels” or “approximants” (e.g. the first sounds in wet, yes).

glottal:

a sound produced in the space between the vocal folds (e.g. the first sound in hat).

glottal stop:

a sound produced when the air passing through the glottis is stopped completely then released.

glottis:

the space between the vocal folds.

goal:

the semantic role of the noun phrase identifying where an entity moves to (e.g. The boy walked to the window).

gradable antonyms:

words with opposite meanings along a scale (e.g. big–small).

grammar:

the study of rules of language at various levels of structure, from the individual speech sound up to the level of the sentence. A grammar of English, for instance, would contain all the rules necessary for studying the structure of the English language.

grammar–translation method:

the traditional form of language teaching, with vocabulary lists and sets of grammar rules.

grammatical competence:

the ability to use words and structures accurately as part of communicative competence.

grammatical gender:

a system of gender assignment in which gender is arbitrarily assigned. In German, the word for girl, *das Mädchen*, is assigned neuter gender rather than feminine gender, the actual gender of the noun.

grammatical meaning:

Meaning associated with the particular words and constructions in a particular sentence or utterance. For instance, in the simple sentence I wrote to my father, all the words have meaning: father means ‘male parent,’ the pronoun I refers to the speaker, and the SVO word order means that the I of the sentence did the writing, not the father.

grammatical morpheme:

a morpheme expressing some kind of grammatical relationship. The article *the*, for instance, indicates that the noun it precedes is definite. The *-ed* on *parked* marks this verb as being in the past tense.

graphemes:

individual orthographic characters used to write a language. The word *happy* contains five graphemes: h, a, p, p, y.

H

head:

The part of a phrase that gives the phrase its name and upon which all other members of the phrase are dependent. The construction *the full-time workers who worked for the company* is a noun phrase because all constructions in the phrase – *the, full, time, and who worked ...* – are dependent on the head noun *workers*.

hedge:

a word or phrase used to indicate that you are not really sure that what you are saying is sufficiently correct or complete
hierarchical organization: the analysis of constituents in a sentence showing which constituents are higher than and contain other constituents.

holophrastic (utterance):

a single form functioning as a phrase or sentence in the early speech of young children.

homonyms:

two words with the same form that are unrelated in meaning (e.g. mole (on skin) – mole (small animal)).

homophones:

two or more words with different forms and the same pronunciation (e.g. to– too– two).

hypocorism:

a word-formation process in which a longer word is reduced to a shorter form with -y or -ie at the end (e.g. telly, movie).

hyponymy:

the lexical relation in which the meaning of one word is included in the meaning of another (e.g. “Daffodil” is a hyponym of “flower”).

I

iconics:

gestures that seem to echo or imitate the meaning of what is said
ideogram (ideographic writing): a way of writing in which each symbol represents a concept.

idiolect:

the personal dialect of an individual speaker.

illocutionary act:

a speech act that conveys speaker intentions. The intent of *I'm sorry I'm late* is to issue an apology (a type of expressive) for something the speaker has done wrong.

implicature:

an additional meaning conveyed by a speaker adhering to the co-operative principle.

indirect speech act:

an action in which the form used (e.g. interrogative) does not directly match the function (e.g. request) performed by a speaker with an utterance, in contrast to a direct speech act.

infix:

a morpheme that is inserted in the middle of a word (e.g. -rn- in srnal).

inflections:

in English, a small group of suffixes, such as the plural marker on nouns(-s) or various verb endings, such as -ing and -ed. Inflections mark grammatical relationships, and unlike derivational morphemes do not change the meaning of a word or its part of speech.

inflectional morpheme:

a bound morpheme used to indicate the grammatical function of a word, also called an "inflection" (e.g. dogs, walked).

informative signals:

behavior that provides information, usually unintentionally.

innateness hypothesis:

the idea that humans are genetically equipped to acquire language.

instrument:

the semantic role of the noun phrase identifying the entity that is used to perform the action of the verb (e.g. The boy cut the rope with a razor).

interdental:

a consonant produced with the tongue tip between the upper and lower teeth (e.g. the first sound in that).

isogloss:

a line on a map separating two areas in which a particular linguistic feature is significantly different, used in the study of dialect.

isolating:

languages that tend to express meaning in separate morphemes. Chinese is a heavily isolating language lacking any inflections: words tend to be monosyllabic. Although English has inflections, it has lost most of its inflections over time and is moving towards being a more isolating language.

J

jargon:

special technical vocabulary associated with a specific activity or topic as part of a register.

L

labiodental:

a consonant produced with the upper teeth and the lower lip (e.g. the first sounds in very funny).

language:

English and French are considered languages because they are mutually unintelligible: a speaker of English cannot understand a speaker of French, and vice versa. However, the notion of mutual unintelligibility is somewhat problematic: Swedish and Norwegian are considered languages, yet they are mutually intelligible. Compare with dialect.

language contact:

speakers of different languages coming into contact that leads to changes in one or both languages. English has so many words of French origin because of contact with speakers of French following the Norman Conquest.

language family:

a grouping of languages resulting from application of the comparative method. English, German, Greek, Latin, and Spanish have enough linguistic similarities that they are considered Indo-European languages. English and Spanish have some differences too, though, leading English to be further subclassified as a Germanic language and Spanish an Italic language.

language planning:

choosing and developing an official language or languages for use in government and education.

larynx:

the part of the throat that contains the vocal folds, also called the voice box.

lax vowel:

a vowel such as /ɪ/ in *bit* and /æ/ in *back* that can only occur in a closed syllable.

learning:

the conscious process of accumulating knowledge, in contrast to acquisition.

lexical cohesion:

a type of cohesion involving, for instance, the repetition of a word or the use of a synonym, as in the two repetitions of *the group* in *The leader of the group resigned. He thought the group was not supporting him.*

lexical morpheme:

a free morpheme that is a content word such as a noun or verb.

lexical relations:

the relationships of meaning, such as synonymy, between words.

lexical rules:

rules stating which words can be used for constituents generated by phrase structure rules.

lexifier (language): the main source (language) of words in a pidgin

linguistic context:

The larger body of words in which linguistic constructions occur, often affecting the use of particular constructions. For instance, old information is often placed at the

beginning of a clause, as is the case with *He* in the second sentence: *The man committed a crime. He was arrested.*

linguistic determinism:

the idea that we can only think in the categories provided by our language, in contrast to linguistic relativity.

linguistic geography:

the study of language variation based on where different varieties of the language are used.

linguistic relativity:

the idea that, to some extent, we think about the world using categories provided by our language, in contrast to linguistic determinism.

linguistic variable:

a feature of language use that distinguishes one group of speakers from another.

liquid:

a sound produced by letting air flow around the sides of the tongue (e.g. the first sound in lip).

loan-translation:

a type of borrowing in which each element of a word is translated into the borrowing language, also called calque.

localization view:

the belief that specific aspects of linguistic ability have specific locations in the brain.

location (in semantics):

the semantic role of the noun phrase identifying where an entity is (e.g. The boy is sitting in the classroom) location (in sign language): an articulatory parameter of ASL identifying the place where hands are positioned in relation to the head and upper body of the signer.

logogram (logographic writing):

a way of writing in which each symbol represents a word.

M

metathesis:

a sound change involving the reversal in position of two sounds (e.g. hros → horse).

metonymy:

a word used in place of another with which it is closely connected in everyday experience (e.g. He drank the whole bottle (= the liquid)).

Middle English:

the form of English in use between 1100 and 1500.

minimal pair (set):

two (or more) words that are identical in form except for a contrast in one phoneme in the same position in each word (e.g. bad, mad).

Modern English:

the form of English in use since 1700.

monolingual:

having, or being able to use, only one language, in contrast to bilingual.

morph:

an actual form used as part of a word, representing one version of a morpheme.

morpheme:

the smallest meaningful unit in language. See also bound, free, derivational, and inflectional morphemes.

morphology:

the analysis of the structure of words

motor cortex:

a part of the brain that controls muscle movement.

movement:

an articulatory parameter in ASL describing the type of motion used in forming signs.

movement rules:

rules that are used to move constituents in structures derived from phrase structure rules. They have a special rewrite arrow: ⇒

N

narrowing:

a semantic change in which a word is used with a less general meaning (e.g. *mete* (any type of food) → *meat* (only animal flesh)).

nasal:

a sound produced through the nose (e.g. the first sounds in my name).

nasalization:

pronunciation of a sound with air flowing through the nose, typically before a nasal consonant.

natural gender:

a distinction based on the biological categories of male, female or neither.

neologism:

a new word.

neurolinguistics:

the study of the relationship between language and the brain.

non-countable:

type of noun that is not used in English with a/an or the plural.

non-gradable antonyms:

words which are direct opposites (e.g. alive–dead).

norms:

“non-mobile, older, rural, male speakers” selected as informants in dialect surveys.

noun (N):

a word such as boy, bicycle or freedom used to describe a person, thing or idea.

noun phrase (NP):

- a phrase such as *the boy or an old bicycle*, containing a noun plus other constituents.
- a phrase having a noun as its head: *the ugly duckling, many small animals that were released into the wild.*

nucleus:

the vowel in a syllable.

number:

the grammatical category of nouns as singular or plural.

O**Old English:**

the form of English in use before 1100.

onomatopoeia (onomatopoeic):

words containing sounds similar to the noises they describe (e.g. bang, cuckoo).

onset:

the part of the syllable before the vowel.

open syllable:

a syllable that ends with a vowel (or nucleus) and has no coda.

oralism:

a method designed to teach deaf students to speak and read lips rather than use sign language.

orientation:

the way the hand is positioned as an articulatory parameter of ASL.

orthography:

the spelling system of a language.

P**palate:**

the hard part of the roof of the mouth.

palatal:

a consonant produced by raising the tongue to the palate, also called “alveo-palatal” (e.g. *the first sounds in ship and yacht*).

passive voice:

the form of the verb used to say what happens to the subject (*e.g. The car was stolen*).

person:

the grammatical category distinguishing first person (involving the speaker, me), second person (involving the hearer, you) and third person (involving any others, she, them).

person deixis:

using words such as him or them as a way of “pointing” to a person with language.

pharyngeal: a sound produced in the pharynx.

pharynx:

the area inside the throat above the larynx.

philology:

the study of language history and change.

phone:

a physically produced speech sound, representing one version of a phoneme.

phoneme:

the smallest meaning-distinguishing sound unit in the abstract representation of the sounds of a language.

phonetic alphabet:

a set of symbols, each one representing a distinct sound segment.

phonetics:

the study of the characteristics of speech sounds.

phonology:

the study of the systems and patterns of speech sounds in languages.

phonotactics:

constraints on the permissible combination of sounds in a language.

phrase structure rules:

rules stating that the structure of a phrase of a specific type consists of one or more constituents in a particular order.

physical context:

the situation, time or place in which words are used.

pictogram (pictographic writing):

a way of writing in which a picture/drawing of an object is used to represent the object.

pidgin:

a variety of a language that developed for a practical purpose such as trade, but which has no native speakers.

pitch:

the effect of vibration in the vocal folds, making voices sound lower, higher, rising or falling.

politeness:

showing awareness and consideration of another person's public self-image.

polysemy:

a word having two or more related meanings (*e.g. foot, of person, of bed, of mountain*).

positive face:

the need to be connected, to belong, to be a member of a group.

postvocalic:

used after a vowel.

pragmatic meaning:

meaning that is determined by context. For instance, the sentence *It's cold in here* could mean not just that the temperature is low (its grammatical meaning) but that the person uttering this sentence requests that the heat be turned up.

pragmatics:

- the study of speaker meaning and how more is communicated than is said.
- the study of principles specifying how language is used. Conventions of politeness, for instance, are dictated by cultural norms having nothing to do with

grammaticality but rather with conventions for how specific forms should be used. In English, a form such as *Could you please help me?* is a polite form for making a request.

prefix:

a bound morpheme added to the beginning of a word (*e.g. unhappy*)

preposition (Prep):

a word such as in or with used with a noun phrase.

preposition phrase (PP):

a phrase such as with a dog, consisting of a preposition plus a noun phrase.

prescriptive approach:

an approach to grammar that has rules for the proper use of the language, traditionally based on Latin.

prestige:

higher status.

presupposition:

an assumption by a speaker/writer about what is true or already known by the listener/reader.

primary sign language:

a sign language that is the first language of a group of people who are typically deaf and do not use a spoken language (*e.g. ASL*).

primes:

the sets of features that form contrasting elements within the articulatory parameters of ASL.

productivity:

a property of language that allows users to create new expressions, also called “creativity” or “open-endedness”.

pronoun (Pro):

a word such as it or them used in place of a noun phrase.

proper noun (PN):

a noun such as Cathy, with an initial capital letter, used as the name of someone or something.

prothesis:

a sound change involving the addition of a sound to the beginning of a word (*e.g. spiritus → espi'ritu*)

proto-languages:

languages for which no surviving records exist and that have been created through the process of linguistic reconstruction.

prototype:

the most characteristic instance of a category (e.g. “Robin” is the prototype of “bird”).

Q**quality maxim:**

the assumption in conversation that you will “not say that which you believe to be false or for which you lack adequate evidence”.

quantity maxim:

the assumption in conversation that you will “make your contribution as informative as is required, but not more, or less, than is required”.

R**rebus writing:**

a way of writing in which a pictorial representation of an object is used to indicate the sound of the word for that object.

recursion:

the repeated application of a rule in generating structures.

reduplication:

the process of repeating all or part of a form.

reference:

an act by which a speaker/writer uses language to enable a listener/reader to identify someone or something.

reflexivity:

a special property of human language that allows language to be used to think and talk about language itself.

register:

a conventional way of using language that is appropriate in a specific situation, occupation or topic, characterized by the use of special jargon.

relation maxim:

the assumption in conversation that you will “be relevant”.

reversives:

antonyms in which the meaning of one is the reverse action of the other (e.g. *dress–undress*).

rhyme:

the part of the syllable containing the vowel plus any following consonant(s), also called “rime”.

S**Sapir–Whorf hypothesis:**

the general idea that differences in language structure cause people to view the world differently, from the names of two American linguists, Edward Sapir and Benjamin Whorf.

schwa:

a mid central vowel /ə/, often used in an unstressed syllable (e.g. *afford, oven*).

script:

a conventional knowledge structure in memory for the series of actions involved in events such as “Going to the dentist”.

second language (L2) learning:

the process of developing ability in another language, after L1 acquisition.

segment:

an individual sound used in language.

semantic features:

basic elements such as “human,” included as plus (+human) or minus (–human), used in an analysis of the components of word meaning.

semantic role:

the part played by a noun phrase, such as agent, in the event described by the sentence.

semantics:

the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences.

shape:

the configuration of the hand(s) as an articulatory parameter of ASL.

Signed English:

using English sentences with signs instead of words, also called Manually Coded English or MCE.

Sign language (or Sign):

a communication system using the hands (with the face and other parts of the body).

slang:

words or phrases used instead of more conventional forms by those who are typically outside established higher status groups (e.g. bucks for dollars).

slip of the ear:

a processing error in which one word or phrase is heard as another, as in hearing great ape when the utterance was “gray tape”.

slip of the tongue:

a speech error in which a sound or word is produced in the wrong place, as in black bloxes (instead of “black boxes”).

social category:

a category in which group members are defined by social connections.

social dialect:

a variety of a language with features that differ according to the social status (e.g. middle class or working class) of the speaker

social gender:

a distinction between individuals in terms of their social roles as women and men, in contrast to other types of gender.

social marker:

a linguistic feature that marks the speaker as a member of a particular social group.

social variable:

a factor such as working class or middle class that is used to identify one group of speakers as different from another.

sociolect:

social dialect, a variety of a language that is strongly associated with one social group (e.g. working-class speech).

sociolinguistic competence:

the ability to use language appropriately according to the social context as part of communicative competence.

sociolinguistics:

the study of the relationship between language and society.

sound loss:

a sound change in which a particular sound is no longer used in a language (e.g. the velar fricative [x], in Scottish loch, but not in Modern English).

source:

the semantic role of the noun phrase identifying where an entity moves from (e.g. The girl ran from the park).

spatial deixis:

using words such as here or there as a way of “pointing” to a location with language

speech accommodation:

modifying speech style toward (convergence) or away from (divergence) the perceived style of the person being talked to.

speech act:

an action such as “promising” performed by a speaker with an utterance, either as a direct speech act or an indirect speech act.

speech community:

a group of people who share a set of norms and expectations regarding the use of language.

speech style:

a way of speaking that is either formal/careful or informal/casual.

spoonerism:

a slip of the tongue in which two parts of words or two words are switched, as in a dog of bag food (*for* “a bag of dog food”).

standard language:

the variety of a language treated as the official language and used in public broadcasting, publishing and education.

stem:

the base form to which affixes are attached in the formation of words.

stop:

a consonant produced by stopping the airflow, then letting it go, also called “plosive” (e.g. *the first and last sounds in cat*).

strategic competence:

the ability to use language to organize effective messages and to overcome potential communication problems as part of communicative competence.

structural ambiguity:

a situation in which a single phrase or sentence has two (or more) different underlying structures and interpretations.

structural analysis:

the investigation of the distribution of grammatical forms in a language.

style-shifting:

changing speech style from formal to informal or vice versa.

subject:

the grammatical function of the noun phrase typically used to refer to someone or something performing the action of the verb (e.g. *The boy stole it*).

suffix:

a bound morpheme added to the end of a word (e.g. *fainted, illness*).

superordinate:

the higher-level term in hyponymy (e.g. *flower–daffodil*).

surface structure:

the structure of individual sentences after the application of movement rules to deep structure.

syllabic writing (syllabary):

a way of writing in which each symbol represents a syllable.

syllable:

a unit of sound consisting of a vowel and optional consonants before or after the vowel.

synchronic variation:

differences in language form found in different places at the same time, in contrast to diachronic variation.

synonymy:

the lexical relation in which two or more words have very closely related meanings (e.g. "Conceal" is a synonym of "hide").

syntax (syntactic structures):

(the analysis of) the structure of phrases and sentences.

T**taboo terms:**

words or phrases that are avoided in formal speech, but are used in swearing, for example (e.g. fuck).

tag questions:

short questions consisting of an auxiliary (e.g. don't) and a pronoun (e.g. you), added to the end of a statement (e.g. I hate it when it rains all day, don't you?).

task-based learning:

using activities involving information exchange and problem solving as a way of developing ability in language.

telegraphic speech:

strings of words (lexical morphemes without inflectional morphemes) in phrases (daddy go bye-bye) produced by two-year-old children.

temporal deixis:

using words such as now or tomorrow as a way of "pointing" to a time with language

tense:

the grammatical category distinguishing forms of the verb as present tense and past tense.

theme:

the semantic role of the noun phrase used to identify the entity involved in or affected by the action of the verb in an event (e.g. *The boy kicked the ball*).

tip of the tongue phenomenon:

the experience of knowing a word, but being unable to access it and bring it to the surface in order to say it.

traditional grammar:

the description of the structure of phrases and sentences based on established categories used in the analysis of Latin and Greek.

transfer:

using sounds, expressions and structures from the L1 while performing in an L2.

tree diagram:

a diagram with branches showing the hierarchical organization of structures.

turn:

in conversation, the unit of talk by one speaker, ended by the beginning of the next speaker's unit of talk.

turn-taking:

the way in which each speaker takes a turn in conversation.

T/V distinction:

the difference between pronouns such as tu (socially close) and vous (socially distant) in French, used as address terms.

two-word stage:

a period beginning at around 18–20 months when children produce two terms together as an utterance (baby chair).

U**uvula:**

the small appendage at the end of the velum.

uvular:

a sound produced with the back of the tongue near the uvula.

V

velar:

a consonant produced by raising the back of the tongue to the velum (e.g. the first and last sounds in geek).

velum:

the soft area at the back of the roof of the mouth, also called the “soft palate”.

verb (V):

a word such as go, drown or know used to describe an action, event or state.

verb phrase (VP):

a phrase such as saw a dog, containing a verb and other constituents.

vernacular:

a social dialect with low prestige spoken by a lower-status group, with marked differences from the standard language.

vocal folds (or cords):

thin strips of muscle in the larynx which can be open, in voiceless sounds, or close together, creating vibration in voiced sounds.

voiced sounds:

speech sounds produced with vibration of the vocal folds.

voiceless sounds:

speech sounds produced without vibration of the vocal folds.

vowel:

a sound produced through the vocal folds without constriction of the airflow in the mouth.

W

Wernicke’s aphasia:

a language disorder in which comprehension is typically slow while speech is fluent, but vague and missing content words.

Wernicke’s area:

a part of the brain in the left hemisphere involved in language comprehension.

writing:

the symbolic representation of language through the use of graphic signs.

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