

**\*Core 305 Phonetics & Introduction to Spoken English\***

**\*UNIT 2 : Linguistic Notes\***

**\*\_(1) Phoneme:\_\***

A phoneme is the smallest significant sound unit in a language. It distinguishes one sound from the other sound. One or more than one phoneme can make a syllable. For example : pin and bin (/p/ and /b/)

**Coat and goat (/k/ and /g/)**

**Consonants:** bat, cat, hut, mat, sat, that, thin

(/b/, /k/, /h/, /m/, /s/, /ʃ/, /θ/)

**Vowels :** hat, heart, hit, hot

(/æ /, / i: /, /ʌ/, /ə/)

Phonemes are abstract (mental) representations of speech sounds. They are written in slant brackets (/ /).

Phonemes can be consonants as well as vowels. Phonemes are tested with the help of “minimal pairs” or “minimal sets”. If you exchange one phoneme for another, the meaning of the word will change.

E.g. In the words enough and stuff the letters ‘gh’ and ‘ff’ represent the same phoneme ‘f’.

**Allophones = Phoneme**

**Phonemes = Syllable**

**Syllables = Word**

**\*\_(2) Allophones:\_\***

An Allophone is a word which has been derived from Greek “allo” = “other”, “Phone” = “Sound”. It is an audibly distinct variant of a phoneme. The phoneme is an abstract representation of a sound while the allophone is a phonetic manifestation or realization of a phoneme.

For example, we can perceive three different allophones of the

Phoneme /t/ in the following 3 words:

***Top (/ t / is aspirated),***

***Stop (/ t / is unaspirated),***

***Better (/ t / is flap).***

The substitution of one allophone with another does not change The meaning of the word.

Allophones are phonemically considered to be the same sound but they vary in pronunciations.

For example, the phonemes / t / and / æ / are pronounced Perceptibly differently in the following pairs of words:

Far (aspirated), Star(unaspirated)

***Mad (/ æ / is relatively long)***

***Mat (/æ / is relatively short).***

### \*\_(3)Dialect:\_\*

A dialect is a distinct variety or form of a language. Any language may have a number of dialects. The dialects are Geographical, Social and Ethnic varieties of the same language. Dialect is also called a Regional Language. The

Dialect differs from one another in vocabulary and accents but they are closely related to each other.

E.g. ***BrajBhasha, Khari Boli, Haryavvi, Rajasthni etc.*** Dialects are considered mostly as spoken varieties. They have no official status and are not taught in schools.

The speakers of the different dialects of one language use

Standard language in writing. E.g. French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Portuguese began as dialects of the Latin language.

***For example, Dante used the Tuscan dialect in "The Divine Comedy".***

Geoffrey Chaucer used the contemporary London dialect which provided a foundation for the Standard English.

### \*\_(4)Linguistics:\_\*

Linguistics is the scientific study of the human language. Till the 19<sup>th</sup>

Century, it was known as “philology” (the comparative study of languages). The main concern of Modern Linguistics is to study the structure, meaning and use of language.

The science of studying language with describing the particular rules and regulations like this.

The Sanskrit Grammarian, Panini, was probably the first linguist in the world. Noam Chomsky is one of the most influential linguists of all time. Linguistics covers all areas of language study- Semantics, Grammar etc. Linguistics has close links with a wide range of other academic Disciplines. Linguistic research has also proved useful in the Development of computer programmes and software.

#### **\*\_(5) Foreign Language:\_\***

Foreign Language is any language of non-native origin. Any second Language is non-native origin for the learner. But in India, there is there is a difference between foreign language and second language.

Foreign language is not used widely for communication in a particular country. Thus, the French or Spanish are foreign languages in India. Individual learners learn a foreign language as a matter of personal Choice or professional requirement.

In a globalized world, it is useful to learn a foreign language for Business purpose. Many schools in India teach foreign language like French and German for the purpose of broader intellectual development and cultural exposure.

#### **\*\_(6) First Language(Mother Tongue):\_\***

The first language which is spoken by the child after his birth is called Mother tongue. So, first language is always mother tongue and mother tongue is always first language. It in vice versa.

For example, the Japanese is invariably the first language in Japan. First language always interferes in the learning of any subsequent languages or second language.

The concept of first language is not that simple in India as there are many different languages in the country. Sometimes Indian children grow up learning two or more languages simultaneously. They speak one language at home but use another language outside home. For example Madhavan, the actor born to Tamil parents in Jamshedpur where the local language is Hindi. In such a situation first language is a language that the child feels most comfortable with.

### *\* (7) Second Language: \**

As the name suggests second language is learnt after first language or Language 1. Second language is not native to the country where it is widely used as the means of communication.

For example,

English is used as second language in the countries like India, Nigeria, Singapore etc.

Second language is used as a means of communication in education, administration, media, industry etc. The Supreme Court of India does not allow the use of any language other than English.

There is a difference between second language and foreign language. Foreign language is not used for communication by the people in a particular country.

English is used as second language in India though it is not the language of Indian origin. Those who possess a good knowledge of English in India have better job opportunities and chances of economic advancement.

### *\* (8) IPA: \**

IPA means the **International Phonetic Association** and the International Phonetic Alphabet. The International Phonetic Association was established in 1886 in Paris. It is considered the oldest organization for the Phoneticians in the world. And its aim is to promote the scientific study of Phonetics and encourage its practical application or use in life.

The **International Phonetic Alphabet is a system of Phonetic notations**. It provides unique symbols for all recognizable speech sounds in language Across the world. The IPA was first published in 1888 and has been revised a number of times in the following sequence beginning in 1914 and continued to be published in 1947,1993,1996,2003 and till 2005.

International Phonetic Alphabet is used by the Linguists, Lexicographers, Language Teachers, Translators, Speech Therapists, Actors and Singers. The English Dictionaries published by the Oxford University Press use IPA to represent the pronunciation or articulation of words.

#### **\*\_(9) Phonology:\_\***

Phonology is the branch of Linguistics. It is the study of sound system of some particular language. Phonemes or Individual Sounds have no meaning on their own. They can make meaning only when they combine together as per Phonological rules. Thus Phonology deals with the sound patterns that are possible In a language.Sound patterns are more or less predictable in every language.

For example,

English Phonology does not allow the combination of consonant sounds such As “zbf”. There is a fundamental difference between Phonetics and Phonology. Phonetics deals with the individual sounds of any language and how the sounds are produced and classified.

#### **\*\_(10) Morphology:\_\***

The word 'Morphology' literally means "the study of forms". The word "morph" means "form". But, as a branch of Linguistics, morphology is the study of the formation of words in a language. And language is a symbolic system of communication. Words convey meaning. Words can be divided into morphemes- the smallest units of meaning in language. But morphemes Cannot be divided further. For example, the word "morphology" has two morphemes- "morph" and "ology".

The Morphemes can also perform grammatical functions like tense formation etc. The following examples can be considered.

**Tense Formation:** "Play" (the base form of a verb) and "played" (the past form of a verb)

**Plural Formation:** "book" (the singular form) "book(s)" (the plural form) Words have minimum one morpheme.

For example- "I", "It", "bat", "English" etc.

Most words have two or more morphemes.

The morphemes which can be

Used independently are called "free morphemes". The morphemes which cannot be used independently like "ed" and "s" are called "boundMorphemes".

In this way, morphology is the study of how morphemes join together to form words. It has a close connection with other branches of Linguistics like Phonology and syntax.

Phonology, on the other hand, deals with the way sounds interact with one another in a given language. Phonology studies the sound patterns as two different levels: segmental and supra-segmental. Segmental Phonology deals with individual sounds like Vowels and Consonants. And Supra-segmental Phonology deals with the elements of stress, pitch, tone and intonation.

### **\*\_(11) Lingua Franca:\_\***

The literal meaning of Lingua franca is “the language of the Franks”.

Because the Franks were a Germanic tribe that conquered Gaul (France) in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. The term “Lingua franca” is used for a language that is used As a means of communication between people who speak different languages.

The terms “**link language**” and “**auxiliary language**” are also used Synonymously with “Lingua franca”. In the Middle Ages, Latin was used as a lingua franca in Western Europe. One of the native of indigenous languages Or a foreign language can serve as a lingua franca.

French, Arabic and Swahili function as Lingua franca in many countries in the world. We have many different languages in India. Most people in Southern India are against the dominance of Hindi. In such a situation, English serves as a Lingua franca.

### **\*\_(12) Discourse:\_\***

In linguistics, \*discourse refers to a unit of language longer than a single sentence.\*

The word discourse is derived from the latin prefix dis- meaning “away” and the root word currere meaning “to run”. Discourse, therefore, translates to “run away” and refers to the way that conversations flow.

### **\*\_(13) Etymology:\_\***

At its most basic level, \*etymology is the study of a word’s history.\*



Another way to understand the meaning of etymology is to think of it as the study of a word's family history. Linguists, scholars who study language, perform research to find the early ancestors of the words used today.

#### **\*\_(14) Grammar:\_\***

For linguists, \*grammar is simply the collection of principles defining how to put together a sentence.\*

One sometimes hears people say that such-and-such a language 'has no grammar', but that is not true of any language. Every language has restrictions on how words must be arranged to construct a sentence.

#### **\*\_(15) Language Acquisition:\_\***

Language acquisition is \*the process by which humans acquire the capacity to perceive and comprehend language as well as to produce and use words and sentences to communicate.\*

\*Language acquisition involves structures, rules, and representation.\* The capacity to use language successfully requires one to acquire a range of tools including phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and an extensive vocabulary. Language can be vocalized as in speech, or manual as in sign.

#### **\*\_(16) Lexicology:\_\***

\*Lexicology (from Gr lexis "word" and logos "learning") is a part of linguistics dealing with the vocabulary of a language and the properties of words as the main units of the language.\*

It also studies all kinds of semantic grouping and semantic relations: synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, semantic fields, etc.

### *\*\_(17) Phonetics:\_\**

\*Phonetics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the production and classification of the world's speech sounds.\*

The production of speech looks at the interaction of different vocal organs, for example the lips, tongue and teeth, to produce particular sounds.

### *\*\_(18) Semantics:\_\**

Semantics can \*also refer to the branch of study within linguistics that deals with language and how we understand meaning.\*

This has been a particularly interesting field for philosophers as they debate the essence of meaning, how we build meaning, how we share meaning with others, and how meaning changes over time.

### *\*\_(19) Syntax:\_\**

Syntax is the part of linguistics \*that studies the structure and formation of sentences.\*

It explains how words and phrases are arranged to form correct sentences. A sentence could make no sense and still be correct from the syntax point of view as long as words are in their appropriate spots and agree with each other.

### *20. Syllable:*

Phonemes include distinct sounds like Vowels and Consonants in a Particular language. **A syllable is a cluster of sounds (Vowels and Consonants) containing at least one vowel or diphthong.** Generally, There can be no syllable without a vowel or a vowel like sound. A Consonant or consonant cluster may or may not precede or follow the Vowel in a syllable.

For example-

The English word "I" contains only a vowel (diphthong) no consonant.

The basic elements of the syllable the "onset" followed by the rhyme.

E.g. me, play, tea, to, we etc.

The consonants or consonant cluster that follows the vowel in the syllable is called 'coda' also called closed syllables.

Examples of coda- all, ask, eat or ink, out, up etc.

The vowel sound is called 'nucleus' of the syllable also called open syllables.

Examples of 'nucleus' – adore, busy, cat, check, hungry, language, Type, unity etc.

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