

LANGUAGE FILES
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INTRODUCTION: MAJOR SUBFIELDS OF LINGUISTICS

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Listed below are some of the major subfields of linguistics and the aspects of language with which each is especially concerned.

Anthropological Linguistics. The study of the interrelationship between language and culture (particularly in the context of non-Western cultures and societies).

Applied Linguistics. The application of the methods and results of linguistics to such areas as language teaching; national language policies; lexicography; translation; language in politics, advertising, classrooms, and courts; and the like.

Historical Linguistics. The study of how languages change through time; the relationships among languages.

Morphology. the study of the ways in which words are constructed out of smaller units which have a meaning or grammatical function.

Neurolinguistics. The study of the brain and how it functions in the production, perception, and acquisition of language.

Phonetics. The study of speech sounds; how they are produced in the vocal tract (articulatory phonetics), their physical properties (acoustic phonetics), and how they are perceived (auditory phonetics).

Phonology. The study of the sound system of language; how the particular sounds used in each language form an integrated system for encoding information and how such systems differ from one language to another.

Pragmatics. The study of how the meaning conveyed by a word or sentence depends on aspects of the context in which it is used (such as time, place, social relationship between speaker and hearer, and speaker's assumptions about the hearer's beliefs).

Psycholinguistics. The study of the interrelationship of language and cognitive structures; the acquisition of language.

Semantics. The study of meaning; how words and sentences are related to the (real or imaginary) objects they refer to and the situations they describe.

Sociolinguistics. The study of the interrelationships of language and social structure, of linguistic variation, and of attitudes toward language.

Syntax. The study of the way in which sentences are constructed; how sentences are related to each other.