



# Structural and Functional Aspects of Language

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## OPEN ACCESS

SUBMITTED 24 October 2024

ACCEPTED 26 December 2024

PUBLISHED 28 January 2025

VOLUME Vol.05 Issue01 2025

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**Abstract:** These are the issues that form the methodological and theoretical foundations of linguistics. Linguistics has developed various scientific directions and methods since its early days. These issues include the theoretical principles, approaches, concepts, and notions that linguists use in the study of language.

**Keywords:** Structure, signifier and signified of language, language and consciousness, typology of language, semantics, and pragmatics.

**Introduction:** In linguistics, it is necessary to distinguish between language and speech. Language is a set of systematic signs, and speech is the process of using language in real life. Understanding this difference in linguistics is important in studying how language works. Below are some of the main theoretical issues of linguistics:

Structural and functional aspects of language: In linguistics, language can be studied from two main aspects: structural (the appearance of language and its components: phoneme, morpheme, syntax, etc.) and functional (the role of language in communication, the communicative function of language).

Signifier and signified of language (sign and meaning): Linguists, especially after Saussure's structuralism, have tended to view language as a system of signs. In this system, each sign (word or phoneme) represents a meaning, and the relationship between this sign and meaning constitutes the main function of language.

Language and culture: The relationship between language and culture is also a topical issue in linguistics. Language is seen as an echo of culture, therefore, it is necessary to take into account the cultural context in the process of studying language.

Language and consciousness: The issue of the

relationship between language and consciousness is also widely discussed among linguists. In order to understand the relationship between language, thought, and consciousness, the psychological and cognitive aspects of language are studied.

Language and human communication: Linguistics studies the communicative functions of language, that is, how it works in communication between people, the exchange of ideas through language, the purpose of language, and its communicative power.

Linguists deal with issues such as the evolution of language, its changes, the development of vocabulary and grammatical structure. This issue is related to the history of linguistics and helps to understand the similarities and differences between languages.

Typology of language: The classification of languages according to their grammatical structure, morphological structures, syntax and phonetic features is also one of the theoretical issues of linguistics. Typology in linguistics aims to identify the general and specific features of languages.

Phonetics and phonology: In linguistics, phonetics (the study of sounds) and phonology (the study of the sound system in a language) are studied separately. This section helps to understand the sound structure of a language and the relationships between sounds.

Semantics and pragmatics: Semantics (the meaning of words and phrases) and pragmatics (issues related to the use of language in context) are one of the important theoretical issues in linguistics. These areas provide a deeper understanding of how language works and its role in communication in society.

These issues form the necessary foundations for linguists to study language in more depth and determine the methods used in scientific research.

In linguistics, there are two main approaches to the study of language: structural (the structure of language, its parts and their relationships) and functional (the communicative role of language and its purpose). The structural and functional aspects of language are interrelated, and each covers different aspects of language understanding. In this coursework, we will consider the structural and functional aspects of language separately, analyze their interaction and their importance in linguistics.

#### Structural aspects of language

The structural aspect of language studies the constituent parts of language and their relationship to each other. The structural approach sees language as a systematic, tightly connected set of elements. It consists of the following main components:

#### Phonetic and phonological structure

The phonetic system studies the way a language expresses and perceives sounds. Phonology studies the structure of the sound system, that is, the phonemes of the language, their relationships, and the sound systems of the language. For example, the difference between the words "big" and "bigness" is due to the different arrangement of phonemes.

Morphology Morphology studies the word structure of a language. Words are divided into morphemes, that is, units of meaning. Morphology analyzes the morphemic system of a language and their use. There are two main types of morphology:

- Derivative morphology - is associated with the creation of new words.
- Inflectional morphology - studies the grammatical forms of a word, i.e. changes (for example, the person and tense forms of a verb).

#### Syntax

Syntax studies the connections between words in a language, i.e. combinations of words, sentences and their structure. Syntax organizes the external structure of a language and is based on the grammatical rules of the language. For example, the words in the sentence "I go to school" are arranged in the syntactically correct order.

#### Semantics

Semantics studies the semantic aspects of a language. It helps to understand what meaning words, phrases, sentences and texts convey. Semantics, in particular, analyzes the logical structure of language.

#### Functional aspect of language

The functional aspect of language studies the role of language in communication and its social purposes. The functional approach sees language as a means of communication. Language is used for various social, cultural and psychological purposes. The functional approach includes the following main elements:

#### Communicative function

The main function of language is to communicate. Through this function of language, people express their thoughts, feelings, and desires. It studies how language works as a tool in the communication process. It can be seen what meaning and purpose each element of language (word, sentence, syntax) serves in the communication process.

#### Pragmatics

Pragmatics studies the purposeful use of language. This approach shows how language works in accordance with the context and in what ways language can be used. From a pragmatic perspective, the purposes and context of language are of particular importance. For

example, the meaning of the sentence "Please open the window" can vary depending on its context.

#### Discourse

Discourse studies the broader communicative processes that occur in the use of language. In discourse, language is not only a set of words and sentences, but also helps to understand how it is formed in a social and cultural context. Discourse analysis studies longer and more complex forms of communication (e.g., conversations, interviews, written and spoken texts).

Sociolinguistics studies the social functions of language. Language is used not only for communication, but also to express social status. Differences between languages, dialects, and lexical forms show the connections and differences between social groups and cultures.

The relationship between structural and functional aspects

The structural and functional aspects of language complement each other and together constitute language. The structural approach studies the internal structure of language, while the functional approach studies the external use of language. To fully understand a language, it is necessary to understand not only its external structure, but also its social and communicative function.

For example, changes in syntax may be due to the communicative needs of a particular language. Or phonetic changes, such as phonetic contraction, highlight the connections between social groups. The interaction of these two aspects determines the social and cultural role of language.

#### CONCLUSION

The structural and functional aspects of language play a very important role in linguistics. The structural aspect helps to study language systematically and formally, while the functional aspect helps to understand the role of language in communication and its social purposes. Analyzing both aspects together is necessary for a complete understanding of language. In linguistics, these two approaches, being interconnected, allow for a deeper study of language.

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