Welcome to this course on Applied Linguistics. This is part of an effort National Program on Technologically Enhanced Learning. In this introductory module number one for this course, we are going to introduce you to the course and the content that will be covered throughout.

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My name is Rajesh Kumar and I teach linguistic at Indian Institute of Technology Madras, my contact details are with you. Feel free to get in touch with me with the questions that are relevant in understanding the details of the course, the details of the material that are covered on online. I invite you to participate on the portal; all your questions will be certainly answered in a timely manner. Please participate; it is a big time learning experience from fellow participants as well. We take care of this portal very carefully and we answer each one of them properly. For the evaluation, the office will keep sending you information time to time.

To introduce you to the objective of this course, it will deal with the applications of linguistic in understanding the fundamental ideas in the domains of the use of language. I will simplify my objective even further. It is very simple, whatever linguistic does, whatever we do in the domain of linguistic in our attempt to understand the language.

A course on Applied Linguistics is about application of those tools the language used. As we will discuss the use of language is the area in which we talk about society. Therefore, when we say applications of Linguistic tools in the use of language, we mean all kinds of issues and difficulties that arise in the society in domain of language used are part of Applied Linguistics.

Some of the domains in which we find issues and we find the requirement for any intervention are second language acquisition, language teaching, the role of language in education, the questions of language in mind, language in cognition and overlap between language and mind cognition. And a significant domain that requires attention, particularly from the perspective of language used is the domain of language and disability.

And then not last, language and computers. This is another significant domain where the use of language has increasingly been significant over period of several decades now. Now we are going to be covering only a few domains, but this is not limited less of the domains in which we use language. We want to be focused in this course; therefore we are going to take up only few domains.

And we are taking up the domains, which are interrelated in some sense. For example, the domain of language and mind and language and education, at the same time the application of language in machines that is the domain of language in computers, they are all related in a very significant way and our understanding of language is going to be very crucial in understanding these domains and how language is used in these domains.

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Linguistics

- Linguistics deals with the study of languages, it's fundamental properties common to all languages and parameter that are responsible for the difference between languages.
- It makes underlying facts about language obvious in a systematic fashion.

So with this objective, we move forward and we try to understand language, linguistics, and then um, we will take a look at several definitions of Applied Linguistics and we will go to the domains in some bit of details. So we need to understand the word "linguistic" in applied linguistics. We have just talked about what we mean by applied; that is, we are going to be talking about application in several domains.

We will try to understand those domains as well however, let us take a look at linguistic. If this is domain, this is one of the branches hence linguistic is afford in understanding language in a in the field of linguistic, we study language in a systematic way. All kinds of somatic efforts in understanding, language and things about language are part of linguistic that is the broad definition of linguistic possible.
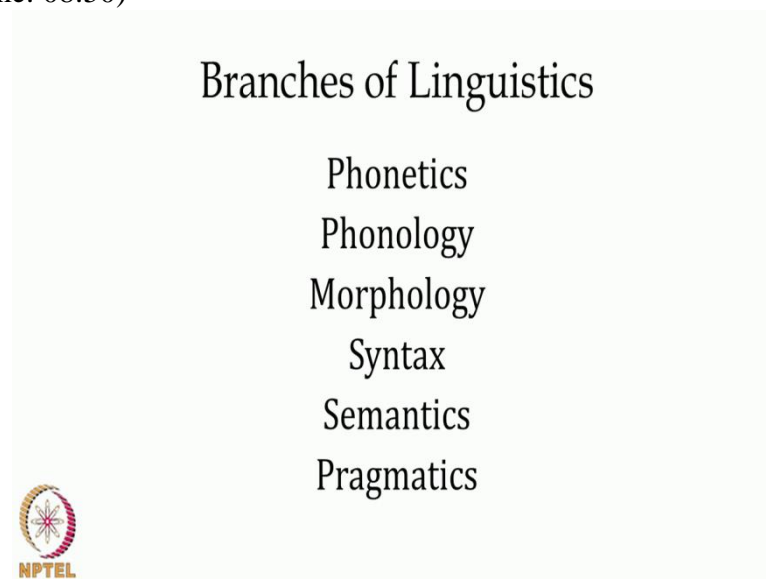
It deals with the study of language that is the fundamental properties of languages that are common to all of them. Now it is hard to conceive in the beginning, but you will be surprised that languages, though they look totally unrelated and what appears to us is there is not much common among them are related to each other in a very significant way in the sense that there are lots of common properties among all the languages.

Such properties are underlined to the structure of language to make that explicit falls in the domain of linguistics. At the same time, the difference between languages is part of parametric study and when there are parameters along which languages differ from one another. In other words, parameters are responsible for differences between languages or differences between languages are dealt in parameters of language.

So there are 2 parts, one is the principal part which refers to the common properties of language and parameter part which is which refers to the way languages differ from one another. In the field of linguistics both aspects are studied, its theories are studied or developed with the help of theoretical tools in various sub-branches of linguistics, linguist study language.

And the study of that, which is language in several subfields of linguistics and their applications in resolving some real-life issues, is part of Applied Linguistic. Like I mentioned once again, linguistics, is an effort in making underlying facts about language obvious in a systematic fashion that is what is done in linguistic.

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Branches of Linguistics

Phonetics
Phonology
Morphology
Syntax
Semantics
Pragmatics

Some of the branches of linguistics that deal with different aspects of language are phonetic, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. I introduce these to you very briefly, phonetic errors a branch of linguistics, which deals with sounds in particular mechanism of sounds. It studies physical properties of sound and also studies how sounds are produced. Phonology studies sound and their interpretation with one another.

In other words, phonology studies features of sound. Morphology is the domain in which we study how sounds are combined together to form a word. These are interesting domains or subfields of linguistics, which deals with fascinating aspects of language. These are also fundamental domains of linguistics in which we study fundamental parts of language. Similarly, syntax deals with language at the level of sentence.

The minimum unit of investigation in this domain of study of language is a sentence, syntax deals with what a sentence mean and how the fundamental properties of the structure of language construct meaning. Pragmatics in a larger sense is about the study of the use of language.

And I am trying to include pragmatics as a part of the core branch of linguistic because it is it is investigation in the domain of pragmatic that tells us how we learn what to say any particular what not to say. With all these, comes a branch of study of language another subfield of study of language is acquisition and that in my opinion is one of the most fundamental aspects in understanding language.

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Interdisciplinary Linguistics

Interdisciplinary studies involve two or more academic disciplines which are considered distinct. The most common interdisciplinary branches of Linguistics are:

Historical Linguistics,
Sociolinguistics,
Psycholinguistics,
Ethno-linguistics or Anthropological Linguistics,
Computational Linguistics,
Neurolinguistics.

So before we come to discussion on language, let me talk a little bit more about linguistic to have a comprehensive idea about what people do in this discipline and its sub-discipline. After the core areas of the study of language like phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. There are some areas, some subfields of linguistics, which are interdisciplinary in nature.

Interdisciplinary in the sense that they relate to at least 2 different parts of the study. So what it means is, for example, feel like historical linguistic or social linguistic or psycholinguistic, anthropological linguistic, computational linguistics and Neural linguistic and the list goes on. A vast list of different subfields of linguistics, whether they are fundamental, core or interdisciplinary only tells you the huge.

It tells you about how widespread the use of language is in our life, in what different ways language impacts our lives and therefore, all such areas must be studied. So in the area of historical linguistic, we try to study language changes over a period of time and how that can be mapped historically. Also, history of language comes very close to this subfield. In social linguistic, we look at the interactions between language and Society.

We look at it from 2 perspectives that is, we can study society with language and also we can study language with language the way it is used in society. All that is related to interaction between language and society is part of social linguistic. And similarly, psychological aspects of language is part of psycholinguistics and how language is significant or can contribute in understanding machines or designing machines becomes part of computational linguistics.

There are again various subfields of these interdisciplinary aspects of the study of language. We would not go those many details of it; the reason why we want to understand core areas of study of language and interdisciplinary approach in study of language is to get an idea of what is it that is due in the discipline of linguistics, which helps us, which enables us to use theoretical tools.

And our understanding of language developed from those theoretical investigations and to apply them, and how we apply them in looking at some of the real issues in the society and where the direct applications of these theoretical tools is tested, which is the domain of applied linguistics. So applied investing is also one of the parts of this discipline of linguistics.

However, it is a domain name itself it can in some sense contrast with the entire domain of entire discipline of linguistic because Applied Linguistic concerns the practical aspects of the theoretical tools in resolving real life issues. So now we are going to come to understand, what all we do in applied linguistics, but before that we would like to take a quick look at language.

Introduction to Applied Linguistics

Using what we know about language, about how it is used, and about how it is learned in order to solve some problem in the real world is Applied Linguistics

Applied Linguistics uses language-related research in a wide variety of fields (e.g. language acquisition, language teaching, literacy, gender studies, language policy, speech therapy, discourse analysis, censorship, workplace communication, media studies, translation, lexicography, forensic linguistics)(Schmitt & Celce-Murcia, 2002, p. 1).

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So we started with understanding applied linguistic and objective of this course. In that in that effort, we looked at both what we mean by applied and what is linguistics that helps us do what we do in applied linguistic. But central to all of that is language and therefore, a very quick introduction to language is relevant. We will try to familiarize you with some of the aspects of language in this course as well.

And that is going to be relevant in understanding what is it that makes us equipped to deal with difficulties of real life in different domains and in what ways we understand language. Just to build that background, we will be looking at some of such issues as well in this course. However, let us understand the language. I invite you to think about it very carefully. It is such a natural thing to humans that it doesn't often draw our attention.

It comes to us so naturally and so rightfully that it doesn't deserve our attention much. Without going into the details of that, I would start with fundamentals of language that it is part of us. As I mentioned, it is natural to us, it grows in us, and in the sense that it develops with us. It is hard to imagine our existence without language, there are very few things that we could do without language.

In fact in order to do anything, we need language and it is language that defines human, such is the significance of language in our life. In the sense that it is used, it is applicable in all the domains of our lives in short, in everything that we do. Therefore, it is imperative for all and I mean with emphasis, it is imperative for all to understand the fundamental nature of language.

So to understand fundamental nature of language, there are 2 particular aspects that we need to look at. One is the acquisition of language that is learning of language and two is the structure of language. Again, it is going to be quite stimulating for you to think how we learn language. And when we see how we learn language, I want you to take yourself back in time and think how you started learning language as a child.

Therefore, it becomes convenient to talk about how children learn language. This is the area of 1st language acquisition, that is and we call it 1st language because we begin with language at that stage and the common thing the common aspect of that learning among all is all human beings are equipped to learn language. In fact, it is the only scientific discipline, which begins with the fundamental that all humans are born equal.

In the sense that all humans are born equipped with learning of language. We are programmed in such a way that we will end up learning language. But which language and what we end up learning is a matter of our interaction with our immediate society. So the role of immediate society and our interaction with immediate society in learning what we speak is crucial.

At the same time, how this input from the immediate society is relevant and gets processed in human mind is another aspect, which is relevant in understanding how we learn language, how it gets processed in human mind and how human mind helps us speak and helps us learn language is really significant in order to understand nature of language. We will we will deal with some of these things in details in one or 2 modules in this course.

But I only want to underline these things in this introductory part of this course, which invites you to think about these complexities involved in study of language and that after the application of that study of language, which we call applied linguistics. So how human mind processes language is relevant and it is quite observable from our experience with the empirical facts in our lives is that it is not that we speak only what we hear.

It is not that we speak only what we learn, it is not that we speak only what we interact about. In fact, we have the capacity to come up with unlimited number of sentences of a language that we speak. We can write all possible words in that language, but we have the tacit knowledge, underlying knowledge of all that is possible in that language. Such underlying, such rich underlying capacity doesn't come only from our interactions in society, this underlines the role of human mind in learning language and its one of the aspects that we deal

with in acquisition of language. The acquisition of language in later phase of our life is a different story.

And therefore, I would want to make a distinction to begin with that the acquisition of 1st language is significantly different from the acquisition of second language. And we may use the word "learning" for second language. So we will, we also see and as second language learning or acquisition is one of the significant domains of Applied Linguistic in which we see the application of linguistic tools.

So what actually happens is, we try to deducts how 1st language acquisition works and then is how it will be useful to understand what goes in learning of second language. This is how it could be how the relevance of understanding what we do in the discipline of linguistics will make sense for people who want to understand what goes on in Applied Linguistics.

So so that that is about the acquisition of language, where the 2 aspects are relevant that is, immediate society and human mind. Also what is relevant is the processing between the 2 that is, when human mind interacts with society, what aspects of processing are relevant for us to understand that is about acquisition of language. The other part is the structure of language.

As we just discussed or I just mentioned that language is one of the complex phenomena that is to understand that, just go back to the point where we said there are underlying fundamental properties that are similar across languages and then there are properties, which are responsible for differences between all of them. So when the elaborate this, and or when we arrive at such a conclusion, it is possible by looking at the structure of the language.

And to understand the structure of language, we need to look at least structure of language at the level of sound, structure of language at the level of words and the structure of language at the level of sentences. When we uncover underlying properties of language at these 3 levels, we see the structural synchronism in language. For example, let us start with understanding what are the things that are common to languages.

That is some common properties of languages. See all languages will have limited number of sounds that is, no language in the world has unlimited number of sounds this inventory of sounds is very few. Among those sounds, most fundamental are vowels and consonants are not fundamentals in the sense that we can have a word only with vowels sounds in all possible languages of the world.

However, in no languages of the world, we can have a word without a vowel sound. This is part of the fundamental properties of language which are common across languages. At the same time, sounds combine with each other to make a word in a particular way. That is, there is an underlying system, it is not random, and it is not arbitrary. With that restriction on combination of sound, we get potentially unlimited number of words in any given language.

So with limited sets of sounds, where not all possible orders are permitted, we still get practically unlimited number of sounds, unlimited number of words. This is, this requires investigation and therefore, we look at the fundamental properties of word formation at this level. And then the requirements of a sentence in the sense that what makes a sentence, what are the essential components in making of a sentence.

A very generic way of describing a sentence is its words together. Well not too careful but even a simple look at sentence tells you that it is not just random collection of words, there are rules that the mind them together and such rules are sometimes are obvious and easily visible at the level of a sentence and some of them are underlying. So all of this is part of structure of language.

And when we look at both together, we get to understand nature of language. Nature of language is very simple, it is fluid, it is not countable, and the fluid nature of language makes it uncountable entity. It is only our cursory understanding that we can count languages. It is it not possible to count languages that come from a very fundamental look at the nature of language.

This is not an outrageous conclusion, and when you start looking at internal variations within language which are observable with open eyes and with limited understanding of how language works, then you get to see the true fluid nature of the language. It is this fluidity of language, which makes it multilingual. That is, each language is multilingual in itself.

The speakers of each language will have the capacity to navigate and negotiate through all its varieties and that is what is referred to as multilingual capacity. Now, this is a short introduction of language, this language and what I described to you about linguistics that linguist do in the discipline of linguistic is to study these parts of about acquisition and structure of language and the use of language.

So acquisition and structure are part of formal study, formal properties of the study of language and use of the language are art of the functional domains of language. What we

derive as theoretical aspect of language from the study of the 2; that is formal properties and functional properties is what we apply in understanding real issues involving language in the real world that is society and such a domain is called Applied Linguistic.

So in in short, let us take a quick look at what people have said about Applied Linguistic and what it means. So like we have established so far, using what we know about language, about its use and about how we learn it, is what is all about applied linguistics. That is use of what we know about language is what defines Applied Linguistic.

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Introduction to Applied Linguistics

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Applied Linguistic uses language related research in wide variety of fields like acquisition, teaching, literacy, gender studies, policy studies, speech therapy, course analysis, censorship, communications, media studies, translations, Lexigo therapy, and forensic science and just keep counting. It is about utilization of knowledge about the nature of language achieved by linguistic research.

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Linguistics and Applied Linguistics

- Linguistics is primarily concerned with language in itself and in findings ways of analysing language and building theories that describe language.
- Applied linguistics is concerned with the role of language in peoples' lives and problems associated with language use in peoples' lives.
- Linguistics is essential but not the only feeder discipline.

So you look at any possible definition of Applied Linguistic, which is available to you that definition is going to come to 2 parts that is, what we know about language and what we do in language and how these 2 things are put together is what we mean by Applied Linguistics. They have so the defining characteristics of Applied Linguistic in some sense is also autonomous and at the same time, multidisciplinary.

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Defining characteristics of Applied Linguistics

- **Autonomous, multidisciplinary and problem solving:**

- AL uses and draws on theory from other related fields concerned with language and generates its own theory in order to find solutions to language related problems and issues in the real world.

- Practical concerns have an important role in shaping the questions that AL will address.

- Language related problems concern learners, teachers, academics, lawyers, translators, test takers, service providers, etc.

But what is crucial is problem solving. It is about practical concern that we have about the role of language in shipping questions that Applied Linguistic addresses. The questions that Applied Linguistic addresses concern everybody in the society in one shape or the other. And such is the significance of this discipline. Some of the problems that are related to language

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What problems are related to language?

- Language learning
- Language teaching
- Literacy
- Language contact (language & culture)
- Language policy and planning
- Language assessment
- Language use
- Language and technology
- Translation and interpretation
- Language pathology

And I have also mentioned this before, but let us take a look at this incomprehensive list once again. It is the issue related to language learning, more importantly or not in the order of more or less, at least equally importantly issues related to language teaching. Literacy is another big aspect of language which involves language and it also involves another discipline, which is policy study.

And then, most of the things about language learning, language teaching and policy get applied in dealing with literacy, language contact in understanding language and culture, language policy, as I just mentioned; assessment, use, technology, interpretation and pathology. These are domains in which we see language related issues and we will be dealing with a few of them to understand.

There are some typical questions that Applied Linguistic will address and I I am just trying to put a few of them here that is, how can we determine the literacy level of a population. These are complex questions and are located in language, which itself is complex. But we can look at these questions with our understanding of what we know about language to make some sense out of it.

So, let us keep in mind that whether the keyword is application in this course. Some of the words that are that are going to be relevant are applications, linguistics and language. Of course, and few mains of the domain where we use them. We are going to start with a small introduction of language that is, the kind of introduction which is going to help us understand nature and structure of language 1st.

And then we get to how we apply them in different areas where we see language related problems. We will be available like I mentioned before all the time, round the clock, send us your questions through our portal, we will look at each one of them and we will answer each one of your questions, please look at associated reading materials with different modules which deals with different aspects of these groups, thank you.