1 Language and linguistics

I Language

1 Communication

2 Linguistic communication

- language

- design features of human languages (as opposed to animal “languages”)
  - intentionality
  - displacement
  - arbitrariness
  - duality (double articulation)
  - patterning
  - creativity (productivity)

3 Some statements about language – true or false?

- You don’t really know a language until you learn its written form.
- Slang is the corruption of a language.
- Languages spoken by people from primitive cultures tend to be more primitive than languages spoken in developed societies.
- Children acquire a language without being taught in class, which suggests that this would be the most effective way of learning in the case of adults as well.
- Some languages are more logical than others.
- Some languages are easier to learn than others.
- Children need to be educated in school in order to learn their native language properly.
- Sentences like Eng. You sing real good or Hun. Innák egy teát are ungrammatical.
- Sentences like Eng. I’m go home or Hun. Haza fogni megyek are ungrammatical.
- Native speakers can normally tell whether a sentence is grammatical as well as the reason for ungrammaticality.
4 Language in two forms
   • E-language, performance
   • I-language, competence

II Linguistics

1 Grammar
   • teaching grammar
   • the knowledge that people have about their language, i.e. its units and the rules for their combination
     - Universal Grammar (UG)
   • a linguistic description of the speaker’s knowledge about their language

2 a. Linguistics as a science

b. Different approaches
   1. – prescriptive approach to the investigation of language
      – descriptive approach to the investigation of language
   2. – synchronic point of view
      – diachronic point of view

c. Branches of linguistics
Exercises*

1. Combine the following phonemes in as many ways as you can to form existing English words: /p/, /t/, /s/, /ɔ/. Point out some impossible combinations, too. What are your conclusions?

2. Consider the following sentences. Put an asterisk (*) after those that you think are ungrammatical (i.e. not possible) sentences in English. State, if you can, why you think the sentence is ungrammatical.
   a. Robin gave Mary a flower.
   b. Robin gave a flower Mary.
   c. The captain made the crew clean the board.
   d. Jane would like to talk to.
   e. Is the rabbit sleeping a carrot?
   f. Why was you late?
   g. He quickly put the book.
   h. He ain’t got no idea.
   i. Did at the airport you arrive in time?

3. You can teach your dog to sit up, roll over, play dead, stay and jump on command, using the italicized words as cues. Does it mean that you are teaching it language? Why or why not?

4. Take a look at the following statements: I learned a new word today. I learned a new sentence today. Do you think the two statements are equally probable, and if not, why not?

5. What do the barking of dogs, the meowing of cats, and the singing of birds have in common with human language? What are some of the basic differences?

6. Explain the reasons why an animal would be incapable of communicating something like A unicorn kidnapped my brother yesterday.

7. Is the following statement true: being a linguist involves speaking a number of languages. Why?