

Core Course V – Linguistics

The aim of this course is to make the student imbibe the scientific method of studying language in terms of its structure and productivity and to infuse in the student the capacity to make grammatical and linguistic analysis of texts that may range from a short sentence to larger units of composition. Thus, if the student studies the five units of this paper with perceptive application of mind, she / he will find that the relevance of this paper goes well beyond its five units.

The objectives are :

1. To make the student learn and reconsolidate the most essential grammatical aspects including sentence analysis.
2. To make the student understand how concepts in traditional grammar are relevant to later developments in the linguistic study of language and also to make them perceive the inadequacies of traditional grammar.
3. To make the student perceive that the study of language is a systematic (scientific) process.
4. To introduce the student to major concepts in structural linguistics, techniques of analysis and to generative grammar.
5. To make the student learn the phonetic description of English sounds, the major intonation patterns in English and to facilitate their acquiring the skill to transcribe words / passages into phonetic symbols.

What is learnt here will help the student comprehend what comes in units II, III and IV. The student's conceptual perception of traditional grammar, the relevance of its major concepts (including word-classification), later theoretical developments in linguistics and of the inadequacies of traditional grammar in the face of the shifting of attention from the graphic to the phonic form of language is facilitated. Perceptive teaching and purposeful learning of this course will equip the students with the kind of linguistic competence necessary for literary textual analysis.

Syllabus

Unit I

Traditional Grammar – Contribution of Classical philosophers to language study – Focus of language study during Renaissance & Eighteen century - Comparative / Philological studies

Merits and inadequacies of traditional grammar.

Unit II

Structural linguistics – Saussure’s Contributions – Phonology – Phoneme, Allophone, distribution of allophones.

Morphology – morpheme, allomorph, free and bound morphemes – morphemic structure – word, definition and concept.

Unit III

IC Analysis, merits and limitations as tool of analysis – Phrase structure grammar – Transformation Generative grammar.

Unit IV

Phonetics – Speech organs, Cardinal vowels, English consonants, vowels and diphthongs – Strong and weak forms - Stress and intonation patterns in English.

Unit V

Broad phonetic transcription of words, phrases and short sentences.

Books for Reference:

Suggested Text Books:

Crystal, David : Linguistics

A.C.Gimson : An Introduction to the Pronunciation of English

Daniel Jones ; English Pronouncing Dictionary

J.D.O’ Connor : Better English Pronunciation

T.Balasubramanian : A Textbook of English Phonetics for Indian students.