

LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

UNIT - I

What is Language?

Language is an abstract system of symbols which carry prescribed meanings. The symbols may be sounds or letters on the basis of the mode of communication i.e. spoken or written.

Characteristics of Language It is Humane It is Meaningful It is Symbolic It is Systematic. It is flexible.

Language is Humane It is the most important trait or aspect which distinguish man from all other living beings.

Language is Meaningful It is different from gestures and body movements which are also regarded means of communication, as its symbols carries specific meanings.

Language is Symbolic Each language on the earth has thousands of symbols to convey meanings of almost all the things which exist on the earth.

Language is systematic As each language keeps some grammatical and lexical rules, language always keeps with it a systematic structure.

Language is Flexible Same symbols may be used for a different meaning in a different context by making structural changes.

What is Communication? Communication is the process of sharing or passing information, message, knowledge, feelings etc.

Major Elements of Communication:

Communicator or Source

Message or Signal

Channel or Medium

Receiver or Listener

Factor to be noted The fruitfulness of communication is dependent upon the channel or medium, used for conveying or sharing the message.

Language The kinship between Language and communication is that Language is one of the channel or medium, used in the process of communication.

Is communication possible Communication is possible even without using any language just as it is seen in the case of other animals which do communicate by using gestures and body movements

Without Language ?

Hence what is the importance of Language In communication? Language helps in the process of thinking conceptualizing Language makes communication more meaningful It reduces confusion It facilitates aesthetic aspects. It facilitates cultural exchange.

Language helps in the process of thinking conceptualizing Man is different from other animals with his reasoning and thinking power. His thoughts molded, developed, and ultimately transferred into concepts and conveyed to others. All these aspects are possible only by using language.

Language makes communication more meaningful Gestures and body movements have many a limitation and communication with them often becomes vague. Language offers more clear and meaningful communication with systematically arranged words and sentences.

Language reduces confusion in the sending and receiving of messages.

Language facilitates cultural exchange. Language is an inevitable part of one's culture. When one uses a particular language, he actually conveys the culture of the language.