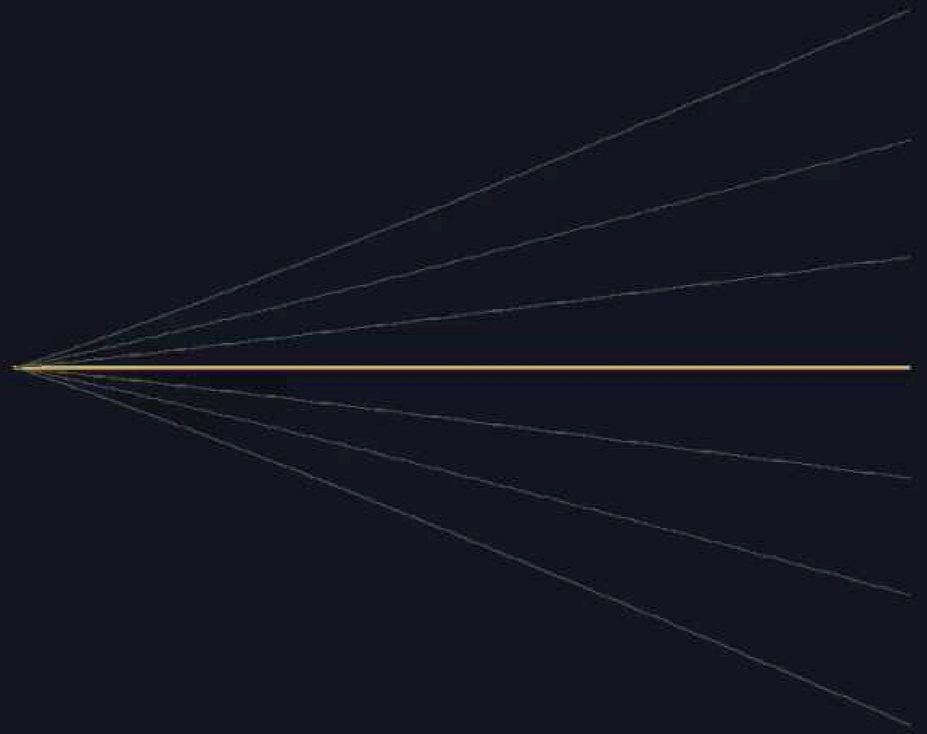
ANDERSON ACADEMY

LING 101 B · Introduction to Linguistics (Brief course)

Course Overview · about 4 min

Course Overview



A library of university-level courses

Questions or feedback: garyanderson@mail.grokbot.com · @garyanderson

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by email to garyanderson@mail.grokbot or in a post on X to @garyanderson. That is full compensation.

This course

- Introduction to Linguistics
- Semester 2
- An overview plus six lectures
- About one hour in total

¶ 0.2

Linguistics is the scientific study of language: how it is structured, how it is learned, how it varies,

Two attitudes to language

Descriptive

- Description
- How people actually speak
- The linguist's approach

Prescriptive

- Prescription
- How people should speak
- The style guide's approach

¶ 0.3

They describe how people actually speak rather than prescribing how they ought to speak.

Why it matters

- Language is uniquely human
- Every child acquires it
- Uses in teaching and therapy
- Uses in technology and law

¶ 0.4

Linguistics helps in teaching languages, treating speech disorders, building speech technology and artificial intelligence, settling legal questions, and preserving endangered languages.

Lectures 1 to 3

1. What is language?
2. Sounds: phonetics and phonology
3. Words: morphology

¶ 0.5

Lecture one asks what language is and how it differs from animal communication.

Lectures 1 to 3

1. What is language?
2. Sounds: phonetics and phonology
3. Words: morphology

¶ 0.5

Lecture three studies words and how they are built, the field of morphology.

Lectures 4 to 6

4. Sentences and meaning

5. Acquisition and the brain

6. Variation and change

¶ 0.6

Lecture six covers variation and change: dialects, language in society, the history of languages, and a summary.

Three big ideas

- Structure at every level
- Variation is normal
- All languages change

¶ 0.7

The second is variation: every language exists in many dialects and styles, all equally rule-governed.

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Notation

- Slashes for phonemes
- Square brackets for actual sounds
- Asterisk for impossible forms
- Each symbol explained

¶ 0.8

When we write sounds, we put them between slashes or square brackets,

How to study

Watch the lecture

Try the examples aloud

Take the quiz

Final exam and tripos

¶ 0.9

and your own intuitions are the best data you have.

You will be able to

- Define language
- Analyse sounds and words
- Analyse sentences and meaning
- Discuss acquisition, variation, and change

¶ 0.10

explain how children learn language, and discuss dialects and language change.