

Psycholinguistics

Lecture 1

By Dr.Chelli



Objectives: Introducing psycholinguistics

- **Definitions**
- **Sub-disciplines**
- **Scope**
- **Areas of study**

Linguistics / Psycholinguistics

Linguistics

Object: language



Structural
components of
language

Psycholinguistics

Object: speech process



Speech process

Psycholinguistics

Psycho	Linguistics
<u>Mental Processes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Short Term Memory-Long Term Memory-Encoding-Retrieval-Mental Representations	<u>Linguistic Theory</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Phonology- Morphology- Syntax- Semantics- Rules

1. Definitions

- . Psycholinguistics is a branch of **cognitive psychology** that studies the psychological basis of linguistics **competence and performance**.
- It is a discipline in which the insights of linguistics and psychology are brought to bear on the cognitive aspects of language understanding and production (Williams, 2001).

Follow up

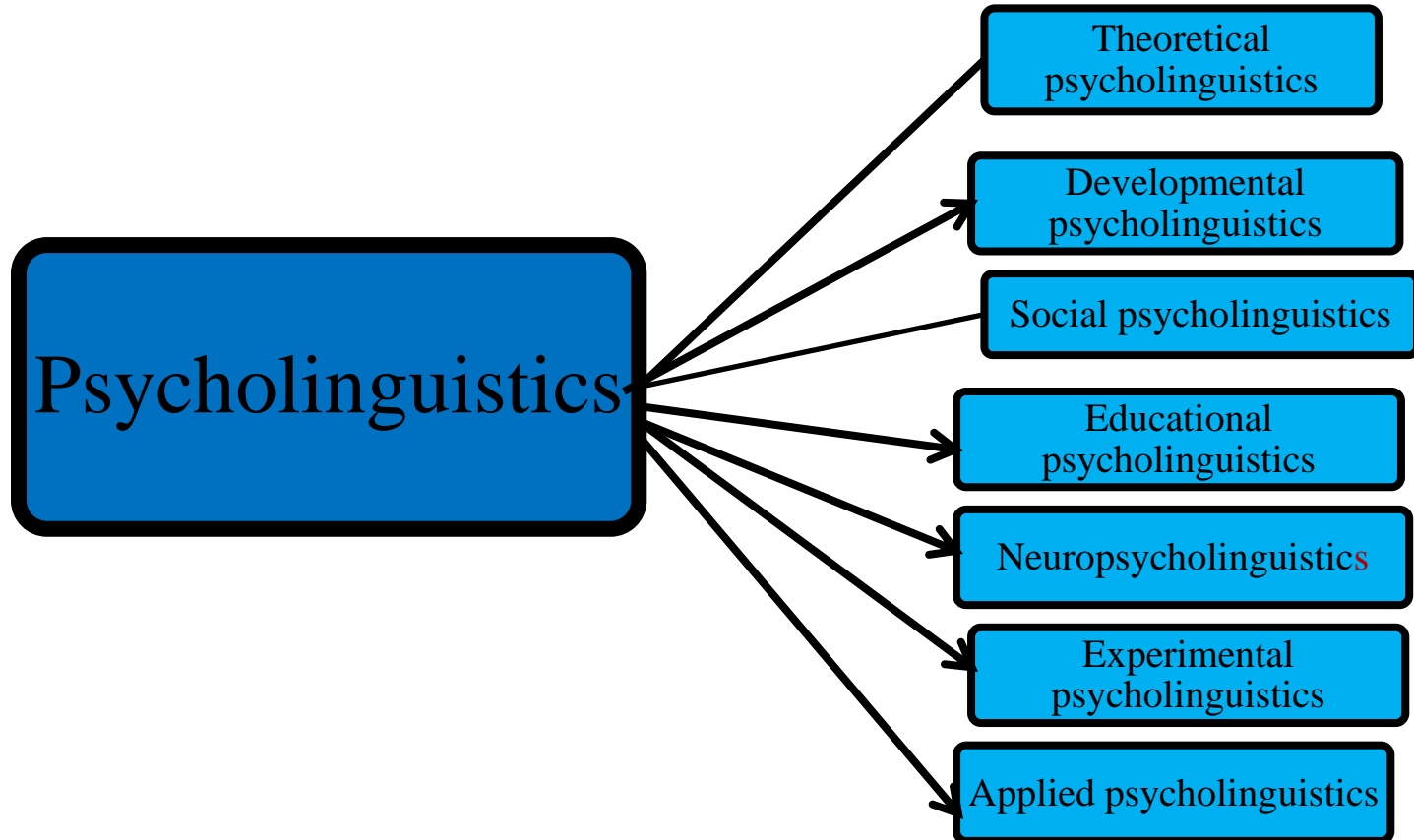
- It is the study of **psychological and neurobiological factors** that enable humans to acquire, use and understand language (psycholinguistics, 2006).
- Simply put, psycholinguistics is interdisciplinary and is studied in a variety of fields including psychology, cognitive science and linguistics.
- Thus, studies done in psycholinguistics help us to understand the psychology of **how we learn and understand language** *whether it is our first, second, or even third language*



2. Sub-disciplines within psycholinguistics

- Psycholinguistics includes a number of disciplines among them:

Sub- disciplines of psycholinguistics

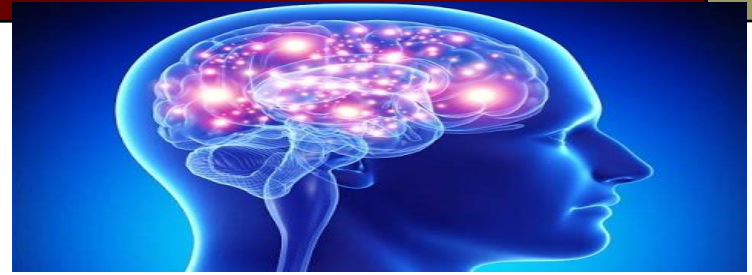
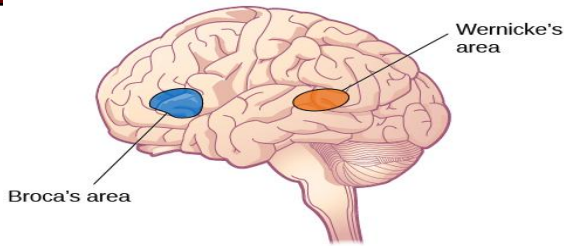


Follow up

- **Theoretical psycholinguistics:** language theories related to human mental processes in using language (phonology, diction, syntax, discourse and intonation).
- **Developmental psycholinguistics:** the process of language acquisition (L1&L2).

Follow up

- **Social psycholinguistics:** the social aspects of language being a string of thought and insights.
- **Educational psycholinguistics:** the educational aspects in formal education: the role of language in the teaching of reading and language proficiency.



- **Neurolinguistics studies** the relation between language and the brain: what happens to language input and how output is programmed and formed inside the brain/ The function of the hemispheres in the processing of language.
- It also studies the effect of brain damage in these centres referred to as language pathology concerned with people who have a breakdown of language, such as old people who had a burst blood vessel in the brain, affecting **Broca or Wernicke's areas**) or young people who have an impairment of the brain due to an accident.

Follow up

- **Experimental psycholinguistics:** the act and effect of using language.



- **Applied psycholinguistics:** the application of all above subfields into other subjects. It focuses on “how research can encourage communication processes among people, groups and cultures” (Mininni & Manuti, p. 10).



Scope of psycholinguistics

- Psycholinguistics as stated previously is part of the emerging field of study called **cognitive science**, which is an interdisciplinary venture that draws upon the insights of psychologists, linguists, computer scientists, neuroscientists and philosophers to study the mind and mental processes (Johnson- Laird, 1988). Therefore, its scope is broad and it is concerned with studies on:



Scope of psycholinguistics

- How language is acquired and produced
- How the brain works on language
- Language acquisition
- The difference between children language acquisition and learning
- Linguistic interference
- Language development
- The role of motivation in foreign language learning

Areas of study

- Psycholinguistics main concern is language and how it is processed in the brain. It is why its areas of study include several subdivisions that are based on the components that make up human language: **linguistic-related areas** and **psychology-related areas**:


Areas of study

Linguistics related areas	Psychology related areas
Phonetics and phonology	The study of word recognition
Morphology	Developmental psycholinguistics
syntax	
Semantics	
Pragmatics	



Linguistics areas

- **Phonetics and phonology:** Phonetics is concerned with how sounds are produced, transmitted and perceived while phonology is concerned with how sounds function in relation to each other in language.
- **Morphology** is a sub-division of grammar concerned with the study of the internal structure of words.
- **Syntax** is the study of the way in which sentences are constructed from smaller units called constituents.

- 
-
- ❑ **Semantics** is part of grammar concerned with the study of linguistic meaning.
 - ❑ **Pragmatics** is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker. This type necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context.



Psychology related areas

- ❑ **The study of word recognition:** the ability to recognize written words correctly. It is considered as the most frequent cognitive activity involved in reading. According to Wolf and Katzi-Cohen (2001), word recognition is a summation of accuracy and speed of meaning access through decoding printed material.
- ❑ **Developmental psycholinguistics** studies how language is acquired by children.

References

- *Johnson-Laird, Philip N (1988). Computer and the mind: An Introduction to cognitive science. Harvard University Press. ISBN 978-0-674-15616-6*
- Field, J. (2003). Psycholinguistics: A resource book for students . Retrieved on Oct 2017 on www.solidfiles.com/v/v84RyQzDmpnR2/dl
- **Mininni, G., & Manuti, A. (Ed.).** (2012). Applied psycholinguistics: Positive effects and ethical perspectives (Vol. 1). Milano: Franco Angeli s.r.l.
- **Williams, John, N.** (2001). Psycholinguistics). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- **Wolf, M., & Katzi-Cohen, T.** (2001). Reading fluency and its intervention. *Scientific Studies of Reading*, 5(3), 211-238.



Read the following poem and see how it describes the brain

The Brain is Wider

Emily Dickinson

The brain is wider than the sky,
For put them side by side,
The one the other will include
With ease, and you beside.
The brain is deeper than the sky,
For, hold them blue to blue,
The one the other will absorb
As sponges, buckets do.
The brain is just the weight of God,
For lift them, pound for pound,
And they will differ, if they do,
As syllable from sound.