The creation of a **Moodle** account

Step 1

Google

elearning biskra

Google Search   I'm Feeling Lucky

Google offered in: Français العربية

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

Step 5

Université Mohamed Khider Biskra

يرجى من كل طالب ملأ المعلومات الخاصة به للحصول على اسم المستخدم وكلمة المرور للولوج الى منصة التعليم عن بعد"MOODLE"

معلومات البكالوريا:

رقم تسجيل البكالوريا
| 35000000 |

سنة الحصول على البكالوريا
| 2019 |

معلومات الطالب:

تاريخ ميلاد الطالب
| mm / dd / yyyy |

25387

أعد كتابة الرقم

ارسال

Lesson 2: Structuralism

Second year (L2) - Linguistics and Phonetics - Term 3

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What is structuralism?

What is structuralism?

It is an approach to linguistics which treats **language** as an **interwoven structure (interrelated signs)**

every item acquires identity and validity **only in relation to the other items** in the system.

What is structuralism?

Example 1:

A **bat** flew out of the cave.

Example 2:

He swung the **bat** and hit a home run.

What is structuralism?

Example 1:

A **bat** flew out of the cave.

Example 2:

He swung the **bat** and hit a home run.

What is structuralism?

- The word "**bat**" is not fixed; its meaning relies on its surrounding words.

- It gains validity only when we see what other words (like "**flew**" or "**swung**") are in the sentence with it.

Ferdinand de Saussure

- Studied at **Leipzig University** under notable linguists

- Major works: '**Memoire sur le Systeme Primitive des Voyelle**s' and '**Cours de linguistique Générale**'

- Considered a brilliant historical linguist

- Influenced on linguists like **Leonard Bloomfield** and **Edward Sapir**

Ferdinand de Saussure
1857 – 1913
Born: Geneva, Switzerland

According to Ferdinand de Saussure,

A language is a system in which all the elements fit together

The value of any one element depends on the simultaneous coexistence of all the others

Saussurean Dichotomies

UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE OVER TIME

THE LINGUISTIC SIGN

LEVELS OF LANGUAGE

GRAMMAR APPROACHES

WORD RELATIONSHIPS

Understanding language over time

- **Synchronic**: Study of language at a specific point in time

- **Diachronic**: Study of linguistic changes over time

Example 1: Synchronic study

Studying the vocabulary used by teenagers in social media posts in 2024

Example 1: Synchronic study

While synchronic linguistics usually examines language at the present, they can also **analyze language at a single point in the past**

E.g., Analyzing the language used in English literature during 1925
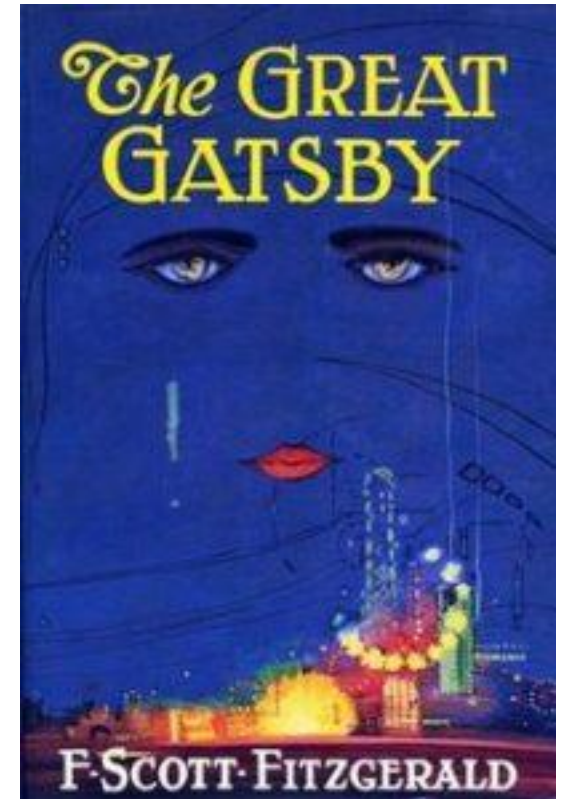
Example 2: Diachronic study

The evolution of the word "Knight":

1. Old English: Cniht /kniçt/ **-** a servant

2. Middle English: Knight /knaɪt/ **-** a warrior

3. Modern English: Knight /naɪt/- a chivalrous man

The Linguistic Sign

According to Ferdinard de Saussure "Language is an **arbitrary system of signs** constituted of the **signifier** (signifiant) **and signified** (signifié)"

Signifier

Signified

Writing: Tree
Speech: /triː/
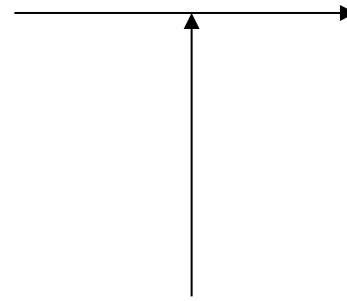
Arbitrary relationship

Levels of Language

- **Langage**: General concept of language

- **Langue**: Specific language system shared by a community

- **Parole**: Individual use of language

Levels of Language
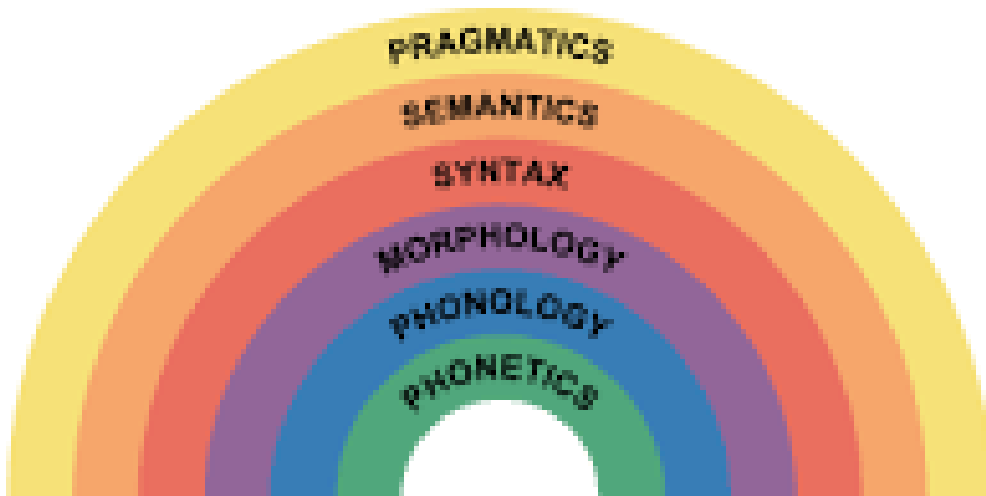
- **Langue**:

Language rule …

- **Parole**:
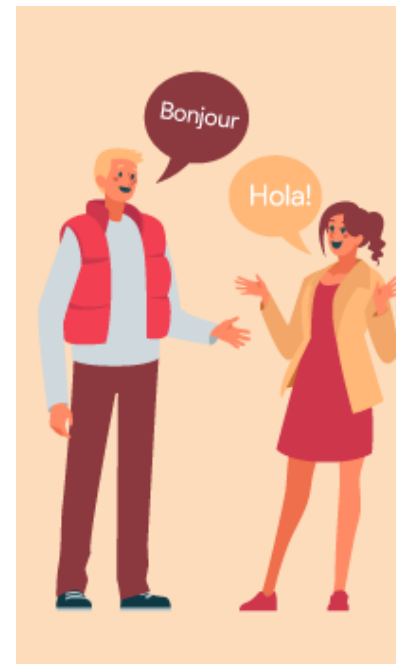
Language use …

Grammar Approaches

Descriptive:

Describe how language <u>is actually</u> used.

Prescriptive:

Specifies how language <u>should be</u> used

Grammar Approaches

Descriptive

Example: He ain't going to the party.

Speakers of a lower socio-economic class/informal setting would use instead of "isn't" or "is not"

Grammar Approaches

Prescriptive

Example:

~~He ain't going to the party~~.

He is not going to the party.

Ain't is considered nonstandard English and should be avoided

Grammar Approaches

In summary …

Descriptive approach notes how "ain't" is commonly used

Prescriptive approach advises on the proper formal use of "is not"

Word Relationships

1- Syntagmatic relation: This refers to how linguistic units combine in a sequence to create meaning.

•**Example**:
"The cat sat on the mat"

The words "the," "cat," "sat," "on," and "mat" are ordered specifically. **If we change the order**, **the meaning changes** or might not make sense at all, like *"On sat mat the cat"*

Word Relationships

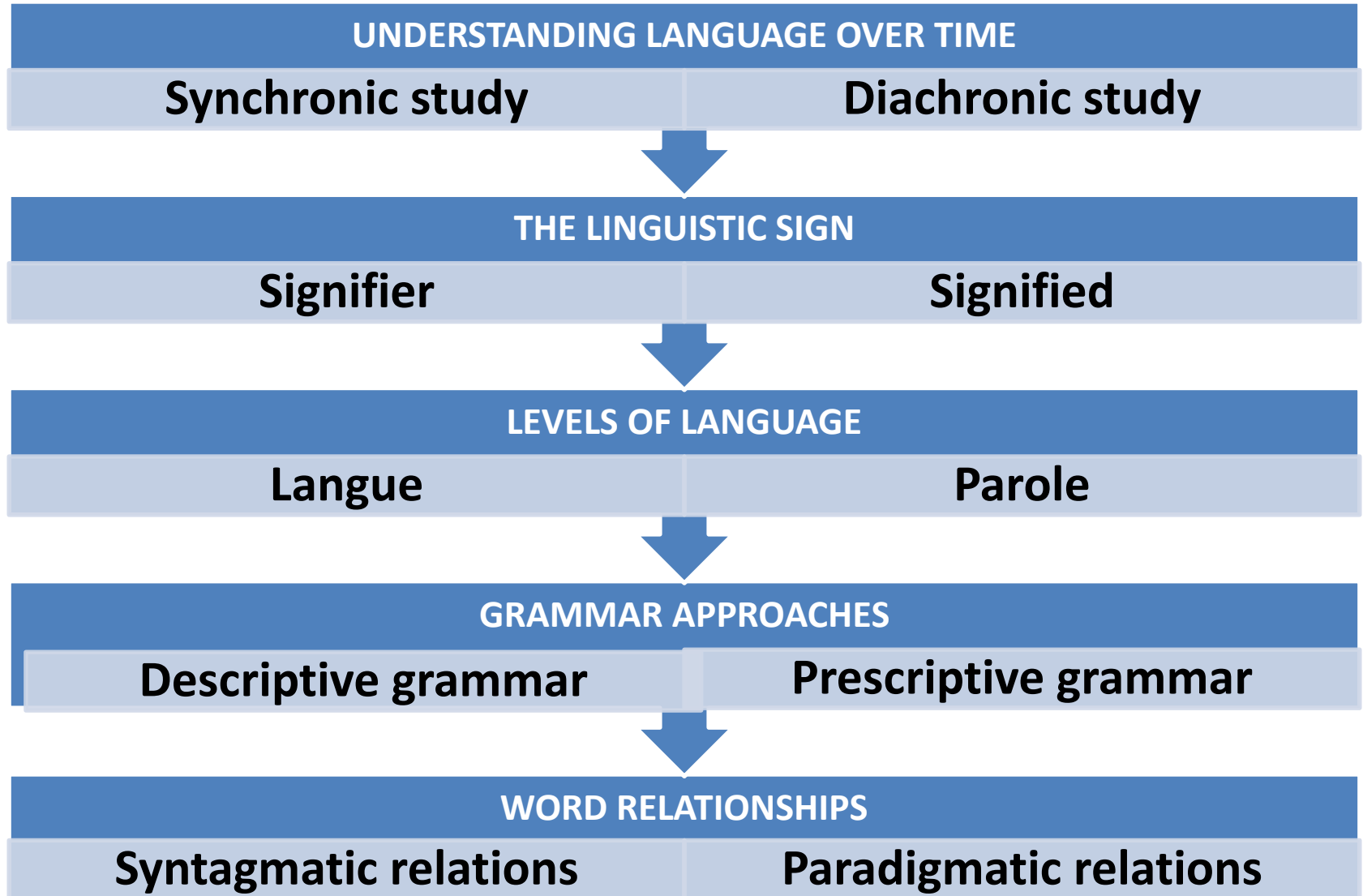**2- Paradigmatic relation**: This refers to how linguistic units can be substituted for each other within a certain context, often changing the meaning.

Example:
In the sentence *"The **cat** sat on the mat,"* you could replace "**cat**" with "**dog**" "**rabbit**" or "**child**."

These substitutions create new sentences with slightly **different meanings**: *"The dog sat on the mat"*

Saussurean Dichotomies

UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE OVER TIME	
Synchronic study	**Diachronic study**

THE LINGUISTIC SIGN	
Signifier	**Signified**

LEVELS OF LANGUAGE	
Langue	**Parole**

GRAMMAR APPROACHES	
Descriptive grammar	**Prescriptive grammar**

WORD RELATIONSHIPS	
Syntagmatic relations	**Paradigmatic relations**

Questions?