

Lesson 11: introduction to applied linguistics

Applied linguistics is an interdisciplinary field which identifies, investigates, and offers solutions to language-related real-life problems. Some of the academic fields related to applied linguistics are education, psychology, communication research, anthropology, and sociology. Chris Brumfit provides a good starting point for defining the field. He defines applied linguistics as “*the theoretical and empirical investigation of real-world problems in which language is a central issue*” (Brumfit, 1995, p. 27)

applied linguistics is a branch of linguistics where the primary concern is the application of linguistic theories, methods and findings to the elucidation of language problems which have arisen in other areas of experience. The most well-developed branch of applied linguistics is the teaching and learning of foreign languages, and sometimes the term is used as if this were the only field involved. But several other fields of application have emerged, including the linguistic analysis of language disorders (clinical linguistics), the use of language in mother-tongue education (educational linguistics), and developments in lexicography, translation and stylistics.

There is an uncertain boundary between applied linguistics and the various interdisciplinary branches of linguistics, such as sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics, especially as several of the latter's concerns involve practical outcomes of a plainly 'applied' kind (e.g. planning a national language policy). On the other hand, as these branches develop their own theoretical foundations, the distinction between 'pure' and 'applied' is becoming more apparent, and the characterization of research as being in 'applied psycholinguistics', etc., is now more regularly encountered. (Crystal, 2008)

History of applied linguistics

'Applied linguistics' involves solving some language-related problem or addressing some language-related concern. In North America, applied linguistics was first officially recognized as an independent course at the University of Michigan in 1946. In those early days, the term was used to refer to applying a so-called 'scientific approach' to teaching foreign languages, including English for nonnative speakers. Early work to improve the quality of foreign language teaching by **Professors Charles Fries (University of Michigan)** and **Robert Lado (University of Michigan, then Georgetown University)** helped to bring definition to the field as did the 1948 publication of a new journal, ***Language Learning: A Quarterly Journal of Applied Linguistics***

During the late **1950s** and the early **1960s**, the use of the term was gradually broadened to be '**automatic translation**'. In **1964** following two years of preparatory work financed by the Council of Europe, the **Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée** (the **International Association of Applied Linguistics** usually referred to by the French acronym **AILA**) was established and its first international congress was held in Nancy, France. Papers for the congress were solicited in two distinct strands—**foreign language teaching** and **automatic translation**.

Subfields of **Applied linguistics**

- [Language acquisition](#)
- [Psycholinguistics](#)
- [Sociolinguistics](#)
- [Linguistic anthropology](#)
- [Cognitive linguistics](#)
- [Computational linguistics](#)
- [Descriptive linguistics](#)
- [Stylistics](#)
- [Corpus linguistics](#)
- [Internet linguistics](#)

The Scopes of Applied Linguistic

<p>a. Language and Teaching</p> <p>This scope covers methods of language teaching. In doing teaching learning activity, linguistics is applied on those methods.</p>	<p>b. Language and Society</p> <p>The branch in this scope is called sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistic studies about the relationship between the society and language, and explore/solve the problem related to society that affects the language, varieties of language in society, terms of taboos and euphemism, etc.</p>
<p>c. Language Education/Learning</p> <p>This scope tries to explain about the first language education, additional language education such as second language education and foreign language education. It also help us to know about clinical linguistic and language testing. Clinical linguistic is the study about language disability.</p>	<p>d. Language, Work and Law</p> <p>The scope of Language, Work and Law explain about communication in the workplace, language planning, and forensic linguistic.</p>
<p>e. Language, Information and Effect</p> <p>It studies the literary stylistics, critical discourse analysis, translation and interpretation, information design, and lexicography.</p>	

