Course: Linguistics   **Level: L2**   **Lecturer: Prof. Saliha CHELLI**

Lesson:10

Introduction to Applied Linguistics

Objectives:

This lesson provides students with a basic understanding of the field of Applied Linguistics. Its objective is to show how Applied Linguistics has evolved within the broader field of linguistics, how it has developed to address real-world language-related issues, and its interdisciplinary nature.

1. What id Applied Linguistics?

Applied linguistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on practical applications of language studies. In other words, it involves the practical application of linguistics-related concepts. Moreover, this is a field of study that identifies, investigates, and offers solutions to language-related problems. Thus, it helps linguists to gain insight into practical problems such as what are the best methods to teach languages or what are the existing issues in language policy formulation.

Applied Linguistics uses language-related research in a wide variety of fields (e.g. language acquisition, language teaching, literacy, gender studies, language policy, speech therapy, discourse analysis, censorship, workplace communication, media studies, translation, lexicography, forensic linguistics

2. Difference between Linguistics and Applied Linguistics

Linguistics is the scientific study of language in its general form. It involves analyzing the structure, sounds, meaning, and evolution of language while Applied Linguistics focuses on using insights from linguistics to solve real-world problems related to language. It takes the theories and principles developed in linguistics and applies them to practical issues.

In short, linguistics is more theoretical and focuses on understanding the structure and function of language, while applied linguistics is more practical, using this knowledge to solve real-world language-related problems.

3. History of Applied Linguistics

Applied Linguistics (AL) has evolved from a focus on theoretical language study to a broad, interdisciplinary field addressing real-world language issues. Early language study concentrated on grammar and translation, with little practical application. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, linguistics became a formal discipline, and practical concerns like language teaching began to emerge, influenced by methods such as

Grammar-Translation. In the mid-20th century, AL took shape, influenced by structuralism and behaviorism, with a focus on language learning methods and real-world applications. The 1960s and 1970s saw rapid growth, with the development of subfields like sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and second language acquisition. From the 1980s to the present, AL diversified, integrating new areas like corpus linguistics and language and technology, while embracing technological advancements such as Natural Language Processing and machine translation. Today, AL addresses a wide range of issues, including language teaching, technology, communication, and social problems, using an interdisciplinary approach that draws from various fields.

4. Characteristics of Applied Linguistics

It is multidisciplinary and problem solving: uses and draws on theory from other related fields concerned with language and generates its own theory in order to find solutions to language related problems and issues in the real world. Practical concerns have an important role in shaping the questions that AL will address .Language related problems concern learners, teachers, academics, lawyers, translators, test takers etc.

5. Subfields of Applied Linguistics

Applied Linguistics (AL) is a broad field, encompassing a variety of subfields that focus on solving real-world problems related to language. Here are some key subfields of Applied Linguistics:

1. **Language Acquisition**: Focuses on how people learn languages, including both first and second language acquisition.

2. **Language Teaching and Pedagogy**: Covers methods, materials, curriculum design, and assessment for teaching languages.

3. **Sociolinguistics**: Examines the relationship between language and society, including language variation based on social factors like gender, ethnicity, and class.

4. **Psycholinguistics**: Investigates how the brain processes and understands language, including language production and comprehension.

5. **Discourse Analysis**: Studies language use in context, analyzing texts and spoken communication beyond sentence-level structures.

6. **Translation and Interpreting**: Focuses on the practice and theory of translating texts and interpreting spoken language between different languages.

7. **Language and Technology**: Explores the intersection of language and technology, including fields like Natural Language Processing (NLP) and educational tools for language learning. This includes

Computational Linguistics which is the study and development of computational models for understanding and processing human language. It focuses on using computers and algorithms to analyze, generate, and understand language

8. **Language Policy and Planning**: Involves creating and implementing language-related policies in education, government, and other sectors.

9. **Forensic Linguistics**: Applies linguistic analysis to legal matters, such as authorship identification and language used in legal texts.

10. **Corpus Linguistics**: Uses large collections of texts (corpora) to analyze language patterns and usage through computational tools.

11. **Pragmatics**: Studies how context influences meaning in communication, including politeness, indirect speech, and conversational norms.

12. **Phonetics and Phonology**: Focuses on the physical aspects of sounds in language and how they are used in communication, including their role in teaching and speech therapy.

These subfields illustrate how **Applied Linguistics** combines theoretical insights with practical applications to solve real-world language issues.

Few Key Figures who contributed to the development of Applied Linguistics

The field of applied linguistics has several key figures who are considered to be "fathers" or major contributors to its development. Here are a few of them:

1. **Leonard Bloomfield**: He is often considered one of the founding figures in the development of applied linguistics, particularly due to his work in structural linguistics and his influence on language teaching methods.

2. **Charles C. Fries**: A major figure in applied linguistics, Fries contributed significantly to the development of language teaching methods, especially in the mid-20th century. He was a proponent of structural linguistics and emphasized the importance of teaching language structures.

3. **Michael Halliday**: Halliday's work in systemic functional linguistics greatly influenced applied linguistics, especially in areas such as language education, discourse analysis, and the study of language in social contexts.

4. **Dell Hymes**: Known for his work in sociolinguistics. Hymes is a key figure in the development of applied linguistics. He proposed the concept of "communicative competence," which expanded the view of language learning beyond just grammatical rules to include the social contexts in which language is used.

5. **Noam Chomsky**: Although primarily known for his work in theoretical linguistics, Chomsky's theories, particularly his concepts of universal grammar, have had a profound influence on applied linguistics, especially in language acquisition and teaching.

These scholars helped shape the broad field of applied linguistics, influencing areas such as language teaching, language acquisition, sociolinguistics, and discourse analysis.