

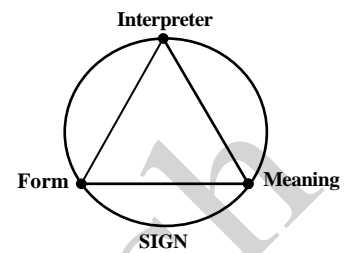
Chapter One: Preliminaries of Linguistics

1. SIGN

Sign → an intersection or relationship of form and meaning

Saussure offered a dyadic or two-part model:

- ‘signifier’ (signifiant)
- ‘signified’ (signifié)



2. THREE TYPES OF SIGNS

Icon → form has actual characteristics of its meanings

Index → form has characteristics which are only associated in nature with its meaning

Symbol → form is arbitrarily or conventionally associated with its meaning

3. LINGUISTIC SIGNS

3.1. Evidence for the Symbolic Nature of Linguistic Signs

- Translation equivalents
- Synonyms
- Iconically expressible meanings

3.2. An Exception to the Symbolic Nature of Linguistic Signs

- Sound symbolism → words whose pronunciation suggests the meaning
 - *Mimetic = Onomatopoeic words*
 - To draw out the pronunciation of words

4. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE vs. LINGUISTIC PERFORMANCE

Linguistic competence → unconscious knowledge about sounds, meanings, and syntax possessed by speakers

Linguistic performance → actual use of linguistic competence in the production and comprehension of language

5. THREE SUBSTRUCTURES OF LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

5.1. Knowledge of Sound System

Knowing what sounds are in a language and what sounds are not

Knowing the way speech sounds form patterns

5.2. Knowledge of Words

Knowing certain strings of sounds stand for certain meanings

Knowing the smallest meaningful units of language, the internal structure of words, and the rules by which words are formed

5.3. Knowledge of Sentences and Non-Sentences

Concerns the combinations of words as phrases and of phrases as sentence

6. DESCRIPTIVE vs. PRESCRIPTIVE APPROACH

Descriptive → a description of the underlying, mental linguistic competence of its speakers

Prescriptive → contain rules of what the language should be. These grammars attempt to change actual language use by prohibiting certain forms

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