

Glossary

AAVE: African American Vernacular English

accent: aspects of pronunciation that identify where a speaker is from, in contrast to **dialect**

acoustic phonetics: the study of the physical properties of speech as sound waves

acquisition: the gradual development of ability in a first or second language by using it naturally in communicative situations

acronym: a new word formed from the initial letters of other words (e.g. *NASA*)

active voice: the form of the verb used to say what the **subject** does (e.g. *He stole it*) in contrast to the **passive voice**

address term: a word or phrase for the person being talked or written to

adjective (Adj): a word such as *happy* or *strange* used with a noun to provide more information

adverb (Adv): a word such as *slowly* or *really* used with a verb or adjective to provide more information

affective factors: emotional reactions such as self-consciousness or negative feelings that may influence learning

affix: a **bound morpheme** such as *un-* or *-ed* added to a word (e.g. *undressed*)

affricate: a **consonant** produced by stopping then releasing the airflow through a narrow

opening (e.g. the first and last sounds in *church*)

African American English (AAE): a social dialect used by many African Americans in different regions of the USA

African American Vernacular English

(AAVE): the casual speech style used by many African Americans as a **vernacular**

agent: the **semantic role** of the noun phrase identifying the one who performs the action of the verb in an event (*The boy kicked the ball*)

agrammatic speech: the type of speech without grammatical markers, often associated with **Broca's aphasia**

agreement: the grammatical connection between two parts of a sentence, as in the connection between a **subject** (*Cathy*) and the form of a verb (*loves chocolate*)

allomorph: one of a closely related set of **morphs**

allophone: one of a closely related set of speech sounds or **phones**

alphabet (alphabetic writing): a way of writing in which one symbol represents one sound segment

alternate sign language: a system of hand signals used in a specific context where speech cannot be used (by people who can

speak), in contrast to a **primary sign language**

alveolar: a **consonant** produced with the front part of the tongue on the **alveolar ridge** (e.g. the first and last sounds in *dot*)

alveolar ridge: the rough bony ridge immediately behind the upper front teeth

Ameslan (or ASL): American Sign Language

analogy: a process of forming a new word to be similar in some way to an existing word

anaphora (anaphoric expressions): use of pronouns (*it*) and noun phrases with *the* (*the puppy*) to refer back to something already mentioned

anomia: a language disorder in which it is difficult to find words, often associated with **Wernicke's aphasia**

antecedent: the first mention of someone or something later referred to via **anaphora**

antonymy: the **lexical relation** in which words have opposite meanings (*"Shallow" is an antonym of "deep"*)

aphasia: an impairment of language function due to localized brain damage that leads to difficulty in understanding and/or producing language

applied linguistics: the study of a large range of practical issues involving language in general and **second language learning** in particular

arbitrariness: a property of language describing the fact that there is no natural connection between a linguistic form and its meaning

arcuate fasciculus: a bundle of nerve fibers connecting **Broca's area** and **Wernicke's area** in the left hemisphere of the brain

article (Art): a word such as *a*, *an* or *the* used with a noun

articulatory parameters: the four key aspects of visual information used in the description

of signs (**shape**, **orientation**, **location** and **movement**)

articulatory phonetics: the study of how speech sounds are produced

ASL (or Ameslan): American Sign Language

aspiration: a puff of air that sometimes accompanies the pronunciation of a **stop**

assimilation: the process whereby a feature of one sound becomes part of another during speech production

associative meaning: the type of meaning that people might connect with the use of words (e.g. *needle* = "painful") that is not part of **conceptual meaning**

audiolingual method: a mid-twentieth-century approach to language teaching, with repetitive drills used to develop fluent spoken language as a set of habits

auditory phonetics: the study of the perception of speech sounds by the ear, also called "perceptual phonetics"

auxiliary verb (Aux): a verb such as *will* used with another verb

babbling: the use of syllable sequences (*ba-ba*) and combinations (*ma-ga*) by young children in their first year

back-channels: the use of words (*yeah*) and sounds (*hmm*) by listeners while someone else is speaking

backformation: the process of reducing a word such as a noun to a shorter version and using it as a new word such as a verb (e.g. *babysit* from *babysitter*)

background knowledge: information that is not in a text, but is used from memory by a reader to understand the text

beats: **gestures** involving short quick movements of the hands or fingers that go along with the rhythm of talk

bidialectal: being capable of speaking two **dialects**

bilabial: a **consonant** produced by using both lips (e.g. the first and last sounds in *pub*)

bilingual: a term used to describe a native speaker of two languages or a country with two official languages, in contrast to **monolingual**

bilingualism: the state of having two languages

blending: the process of combining the beginning of one word and the end of another word to form a new word (e.g. *brunch* from *breakfast* and *lunch*)

borrowing: the process of taking words from other languages

bound morpheme: a **morpheme** such as *un-* or *-ed* that cannot stand alone and must be attached to another form (e.g. *undressed*)

broadening: a semantic change in which a word is used with a more general meaning (e.g. *foda* (animal fodder) → *food* (any kind)), in contrast to **narrowing**

Broca's aphasia: a language disorder in which speech production is typically reduced, distorted, slow and missing grammatical markers

Broca's area: a part of the brain in the left hemisphere involved in speech production

calque: a type of **borrowing** in which each element of a word is translated into the borrowing language (e.g. *gratte-ciel* "scrape-sky" for *skyscraper*)

caregiver speech: speech addressed to young children by the adult(s) or older children who are looking after them

category: a group with certain features in common

characters: forms used in Chinese writing

classifiers: grammatical markers that indicate the type or "class" of a **noun**

clipping: the process of reducing a word of more than one syllable to a shorter form (e.g. *ad* from *advertisement*)

closed syllable: a **syllable** that ends with a **consonant** or **coda**

coarticulation: the process of making one sound virtually at the same time as the next sound

coda: the part of a syllable after the **vowel**

cognates: words in different languages that have a similar form and meaning (e.g. English *friend* and German *Freund*)

cognitive category: a **category** used in the organization of how we think

coherence: the connections that create a meaningful interpretation of texts

cohesion: the ties and connections that exist within texts

cohesive ties: the individual connections between words and phrases in a text

co-hyponyms: words in **hyponymy** that share the same **superordinate** (*"Daffodil"* and *"rose"* are co-hyponyms of *"flower"*)

coinage: the invention of new words (e.g. *xerox*)

collocation: a relationship between words that frequently occur together (e.g. *salt and pepper*)

communication strategy: a way of overcoming a gap between communicative intent and a limited ability to express that intent, as part of **strategic competence**

communicative approaches: approaches to language teaching that are based on learning through using language rather than learning about language

communicative competence: the general ability to use language accurately, appropriately and flexibly

communicative signals: behavior used intentionally to provide information

comparative reconstruction: the creation of the original form of an ancestor language on the basis of comparable forms in languages that are descendants

complementizer (C): a word such as *that* introducing a **complement phrase**

complement phrase (CP): a structure such as *that Mary helped George* used to complete a construction beginning with a structure such as *Cathy knew*

completion point: in conversation, the end of a **turn**, usually marked by a pause at the end of a phrase or sentence

compounding: the process of combining two (or more) words to form a new word (e.g. *waterbed*)

conceptual meaning: the basic components of meaning conveyed by the literal use of words

conduction aphasia: a language disorder associated with damage to the **arcuate fasciculus** in which repeating words or phrases is difficult

conjunction: a word such as *and* or *because* used to make connections between words, phrases and sentences

consonant: a speech sound produced by restricting the airflow in some way

consonantal alphabet: a way of writing in which each symbol represents a consonant sound

consonant cluster: two or more **consonants** in sequence

constituent analysis: a grammatical analysis of how small constituents (or components) go

together to form larger constituents in sentences

context: either the **physical context** or the **linguistic context (co-text)** in which words are used

convergence: adopting a speech style that attempts to reduce social distance by using forms that are similar to those used by the person being talked to, as a type of **speech accommodation**, in contrast to **divergence**

conversation analysis: the study of turn-taking in conversation

conversion: the process of changing the function of a word, such as a noun to a verb, as a way of forming new words, also known as “category change” or “functional shift” (e.g. *vacation* in *They’re vacationing in Florida*)

cooing: the earliest use of speech-like sounds by an infant in the first few months

co-operative principle: an underlying assumption of conversation that you will “make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged”

corpus linguistics: the study of language in use by analyzing the occurrence and frequency of forms in a large collection of texts typically stored in a computer

co-text: the set of other words used in the same phrase or sentence, also called the **linguistic context**

countable: type of noun that can be used in English with *a/an* and the plural (e.g. *a cup, two cups*), in contrast to **non-countable**

covert prestige: the status of a speech style or feature as having positive value, but which is “hidden” or not valued similarly among the

- larger community, in contrast to **overt prestige**
- creole**: a variety of a language that developed from a **pidgin** and is used as a first language by a population of native speakers
- creolization**: the process of development from a **pidgin** to a **creole**, in contrast to **decreolization**
- critical period**: the time from birth to puberty during which normal first language acquisition can take place
- cultural transmission**: the process whereby knowledge of a language is passed from one generation to the next
- culture**: socially acquired knowledge
- cuneiform**: a way of writing created by pressing a wedge-shaped implement into soft clay
- decreolization**: the process whereby a **creole** is used with fewer distinct creole features as it becomes more like a standard variety, in contrast to **creolization**
- deep structure**: the underlying structure of sentences as represented by **phrase structure rules**
- deictics**: **gestures** used to point at things or people
- deixis (deictic expressions)**: using words such as *this* or *here* as a way of “pointing” with language
- dental**: a **consonant** produced with the tongue tip behind the upper front teeth (e.g. the first sound in *that*)
- derivation**: the process of forming new words by adding **affixes**
- derivational morpheme**: a **bound morpheme** such as *-ish* used to make new words or words of a different grammatical category (e.g. *boyish*), in contrast to an **inflectional morpheme**
- descriptive approach**: an approach to grammar that is based on a description of the structures actually used in a language, not what should be used, in contrast to the **prescriptive approach**
- diachronic variation**: differences resulting from change over a period of time, in contrast to **synchronic variation**
- dialect**: aspects of the grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation of a variety of a language, in contrast to **accent**
- dialect boundary**: a line representing a set of **isoglosses**, used to separate one dialect area from another
- dialect continuum**: the gradual merging of one regional variety of a language into another
- dialectology**: the study of **dialects**
- dichotic listening**: an experiment in which a listener hears two different sounds simultaneously, each through a different earphone
- diglossia**: a situation where there is a “high” or special variety of a language used in formal situations (e.g. Classical Arabic), and a “low” variety used locally and informally (e.g. Lebanese Arabic)
- digraph**: a combination of letters used in writing for a single sound (e.g. “ph” for /f/)
- diphthong**: a sound formed by combining two **vowel** sounds (e.g. *boy*)
- direct speech act**: an action in which the form used (e.g. interrogative) directly matches the function (e.g. question) performed by a speaker with an utterance, in contrast to an **indirect speech act**
- discourse analysis**: the study of language beyond the sentence, in text and conversation

displacement: a property of language that allows users to talk about things and events not present in the immediate environment

divergence: adopting a speech style that emphasizes social distance by using forms that are different from those used by the person being talked to, as a form of **speech accommodation**, in contrast to **convergence**

duality: a property of language whereby linguistic forms have two simultaneous levels of sound production and meaning, also called “double articulation”

Early Modern English: the form of English in use between 1500 and 1700

elision: the process of leaving out a sound segment in the pronunciation of a word

emblems: non-verbal signals such as “thumbs up” (= things are good) that function like fixed phrases with conventional interpretations

epenthesis: a sound change involving the addition of a sound to a word (e.g. *timr* → *timber*)

eponym: a word derived from the name of a person or place (e.g. *sandwich*)

etymology: the study of the origin and history of words

experienter: the **semantic role** of the noun phrase identifying the entity that has the feeling, perception or state described by the verb (e.g. *The boy feels sad*)

external change: influences from the outside that cause changes in a language, in contrast to **internal change**

face: a person’s public self-image as described in the study of **politeness**

face-saving act: saying something that reduces a possible threat to another person’s self-image

face-threatening act: saying something that represents a threat to another person’s self-image

filled pause: a break in the flow of speech, using sounds such as *em* and *er*

finger-spelling: a system of hand configurations used to represent the letters of the alphabet in **sign language**

fixed reference: a property of a communication system whereby each signal is fixed as relating to one particular object or occasion

flap: a sound produced with the tongue tip briefly touching the **alveolar ridge**

foreigner talk: a way of using a language with non-native speakers that is simpler in structure and vocabulary

fossilization: the process whereby an **interlanguage**, containing many non-L2 features, stops developing toward more accurate forms of the L2

free morpheme: a **morpheme** that can stand by itself as a single word

fricative: a **consonant** produced by almost blocking the airflow (e.g. the first and last sounds in *five*)

functional morpheme: a **free morpheme** that is used as a function word, such as a conjunction (*and*) or a preposition (*in*)

gender: a term used in three ways: (1) a biological distinction between male and female, also called **natural gender**; (2) a distinction between classes of nouns as masculine, feminine (or neuter), also called **grammatical gender**; (3) a distinction between the social roles of men and women, also called **social gender**

generative grammar: a set of rules defining the possible sentences in a language

gestures: use of the hands, typically while speaking

glides: sounds produced with the tongue in motion to or from a vowel sound, also called “semi-vowels” or “approximants” (e.g. the first sounds in *wet*, *yes*)

glottal: a sound produced in the space between the **vocal folds** (e.g. the first sound in *hat*)

glottal stop: a sound produced when the air passing through the **glottis** is stopped completely then released

glottis: the space between the **vocal folds**

goal: the **semantic role** of the noun phrase identifying where an entity moves to (e.g. *The boy walked to the window*)

gradable antonyms: words with opposite meanings along a scale (e.g. *big–small*)

grammar: the analysis of the structure of phrases and sentences

grammar–translation method: the traditional form of language teaching, with vocabulary lists and sets of grammar rules

grammatical competence: the ability to use words and structures accurately as part of **communicative competence**

grammatical gender: a grammatical category designating the class of a noun as masculine or feminine (or neuter), in contrast to other types of **gender**

hedge: a word or phrase used to indicate that you are not really sure that what you are saying is sufficiently correct or complete

hierarchical organization: the analysis of constituents in a sentence showing which constituents are higher than and contain other constituents

holophrastic (utterance): a single form functioning as a phrase or sentence in the early speech of young children

homonyms: two words with the same form that are unrelated in meaning (e.g. *mole* (on skin) – *mole* (small animal))

homophones: two or more words with different forms and the same pronunciation (e.g. *to–too–two*)

hypocorism: a word-formation process in which a longer word is reduced to a shorter form with *-y* or *-ie* at the end (e.g. *telly*, *movie*)

hyponymy: the **lexical relation** in which the meaning of one word is included in the meaning of another (e.g. “*Daffodil*” is a *hyponym* of “*flower*”)

iconics: **gestures** that seem to echo or imitate the meaning of what is said

ideogram (ideographic writing): a way of writing in which each symbol represents a concept

idiolect: the personal **dialect** of an individual speaker

implicature: an additional meaning conveyed by a speaker adhering to the **co-operative principle**

indirect speech act: an action in which the form used (e.g. interrogative) does not directly match the function (e.g. request) performed by a speaker with an utterance, in contrast to a **direct speech act**

inference: additional information used by a listener/reader to create a connection between what is said and what must be meant

infix: a **morpheme** that is inserted in the middle of a word (e.g. *-m-* in *smal*)

inflectional morpheme: a **bound morpheme** used to indicate the grammatical function of a word, also called an “inflection” (e.g. *dogs*, *walked*)

informative signals: behavior that provides information, usually unintentionally

innateness hypothesis: the idea that humans are genetically equipped to acquire language

input: the language that an acquirer/learner is exposed to, in contrast to **output**

instrument: the **semantic role** of the noun phrase identifying the entity that is used to perform the action of the verb (e.g. *The boy cut the rope with a razor*)

instrumental motivation: the desire to learn an **L2**, not to join the community of L2-users, but to achieve some other goal, in contrast to **integrative motivation**

integrative motivation: the desire to learn an **L2** in order to take part in the social life of the community of L2-users, in contrast to **instrumental motivation**

interdental: a **consonant** produced with the tongue tip between the upper and lower teeth (e.g. the first sound in *that*)

interlanguage: the interim system of **L2** learners, which has some features of the **L1** and **L2** plus some that are independent of the **L1** and the **L2**

internal change: change in a language that is not caused by outside influence, in contrast to **external change**

isogloss: a line on a map separating two areas in which a particular linguistic feature is significantly different, used in the study of **dialect**

jargon: special technical vocabulary associated with a specific activity or topic as part of a **register**

kinship terms: words used to refer to people who are members of the same family that indicate their relationship with other members

L1: first language, acquired as a child

L2: second language

labeled and bracketed sentences: a type of analysis in which constituents in a sentence are marked off by brackets with labels describing each type of constituent

labiodental: a **consonant** produced with the upper teeth and the lower lip (e.g. the first sounds in *very funny*)

language planning: choosing and developing an official language or languages for use in government and education

larynx: the part of the throat that contains the **vocal folds**, also called the voice box

lateralization (lateralized): divided into a left side and a right side, with control of functions on one side or the other (used in describing the human brain)

learning: the conscious process of accumulating knowledge, in contrast to **acquisition**

lexicalized: expressed as a single word, in contrast to **non-lexicalized**

lexical morpheme: a **free morpheme** that is a content word such as a noun or verb

lexical relations: the relationships of meaning, such as **synonymy**, between words

lexical rules: rules stating which words can be used for constituents generated by **phrase structure rules**

lexifier (language): the main source (language) of words in a **pidgin**

linguistic context: the set of other words used in the same phrase or sentence, also called **co-text**

linguistic determinism: the idea that we can only think in the categories provided by our language, in contrast to **linguistic relativity**

linguistic geography: the study of language variation based on where different varieties of the language are used

linguistic relativity: the idea that, to some extent, we think about the world using categories provided by our language, in contrast to **linguistic determinism**

linguistic variable: a feature of language use that distinguishes one group of speakers from another

liquid: a sound produced by letting air flow around the sides of the tongue (e.g. the first sound in *lip*)

loan-translation: a type of **borrowing** in which each element of a word is translated into the borrowing language, also called **calque**

localization view: the belief that specific aspects of linguistic ability have specific locations in the brain

location (in semantics): the **semantic role** of the noun phrase identifying where an entity is (e.g. *The boy is sitting in the classroom*)

location (in sign language): an **articulatory parameter** of **ASL** identifying the place where hands are positioned in relation to the head and upper body of the signer

logogram (logographic writing): a way of writing in which each symbol represents a word

majority principle: in **comparative reconstruction**, the choice of the form that occurs more often than any other form in the set of descendant languages

malapropism: a speech error in which one word is used instead of another with a similar beginning, end and number of syllables (e.g. *medication* used instead of “meditation”)

manner maxim: the assumption in conversation that you will “be clear, brief and orderly”

maxim: one of four assumptions in conversation connected to the **co-operative principle**

metathesis: a sound change involving the reversal in position of two sounds (e.g. *hros* → *horse*)

metonymy: a word used in place of another with which it is closely connected in everyday experience (e.g. *He drank the whole bottle* (= the liquid))

Middle English: the form of English in use between 1100 and 1500

minimal pair (set): two (or more) words that are identical in form except for a contrast in one **phoneme** in the same position in each word (e.g. *bad, mad*)

Modern English: the form of English in use since 1700

monolingual: having, or being able to use, only one language, in contrast to **bilingual**

morph: an actual form used as part of a word, representing one version of a **morpheme**

morpheme: a minimal unit of meaning or grammatical function

morphology: the analysis of the structure of words

most natural development principle: in **comparative reconstruction**, the choice of older versus newer forms on the basis of commonly observed types of sound change

motor cortex: a part of the brain that controls muscle movement

movement: an **articulatory parameter** in **ASL** describing the type of motion used in forming signs

movement rules: rules that are used to move constituents in structures derived from **phrase structure rules**. They have a special rewrite arrow: ⇒

- narrowing:** a semantic change in which a word is used with a less general meaning (e.g. *mete* (any type of food) → *meat* (only animal flesh)), in contrast to **broadening**
- nasal:** a sound produced through the nose (e.g. the first sounds in *my name*)
- nasalization:** pronunciation of a sound with air flowing through the nose, typically before a **nasal** consonant
- natural gender:** a distinction based on the biological categories of male, female or neither, in contrast to other types of **gender**
- negative face:** the need to be independent and free from imposition, in contrast to **positive face**
- negative transfer:** the use of a feature from the **L1** (that is really different from the **L2**) while performing in the **L2**, in contrast to **positive transfer**
- negotiated input:** **L2** material that an acquirer/learner is exposed to when active attention is drawn to that material during interaction in the **L2**
- neologism:** a new word
- neurolinguistics:** the study of the relationship between language and the brain
- non-countable:** type of noun that is not used in English with *a/an* or the plural (e.g. **a furniture*, **two furnitures*), in contrast to **countable**
- non-gradable antonyms:** words which are direct opposites (e.g. *alive–dead*)
- non-lexicalized:** not expressed as a single word, in contrast to **lexicalized**
- NORMS:** “non-mobile, older, rural, male speakers” selected as informants in dialect surveys
- noun (N):** a word such as *boy*, *bicycle* or *freedom* used to describe a person, thing or idea
- noun phrase (NP):** a phrase such as *the boy* or *an old bicycle*, containing a **noun** plus other constituents
- nucleus:** the **vowel** in a **syllable**
- number:** the grammatical category of **nouns** as singular or plural
- Old English:** the form of English in use before 1100
- one-word stage:** the period in **L1** acquisition when children can produce single terms for objects
- onomatopoeia (onomatopoeic):** words containing sounds similar to the noises they describe (e.g. *bang*, *cuckoo*)
- onset:** the part of the **syllable** before the **vowel**
- open syllable:** a **syllable** that ends with a **vowel** (or **nucleus**) and has no **coda**
- oralism:** a method designed to teach deaf students to speak and read lips rather than use **sign language**
- orientation:** the way the hand is positioned as an **articulatory parameter** of **ASL**
- orthography:** the spelling system of a language
- output:** the language produced by an acquirer/learner, in contrast to **input**
- overextension:** in **L1** acquisition, using a word to refer to more objects than is usual in the language (*ball* used to refer to the moon)
- overgeneralization:** in **L1** acquisition, using an **inflectional morpheme** on more words than is usual in the language (e.g. *two foots*)
- overt prestige:** status that is generally recognized as “better” or more positively valued in the larger community, in contrast to **covert prestige**
- palate:** the hard part of the roof of the mouth
- palatal:** a **consonant** produced by raising the tongue to the **palate**, also called

“alveo-palatal” (e.g. the first sounds in *ship* and *yacht*)

passive voice: the form of the verb used to say what happens to the **subject** (e.g. *The car **was stolen***) in contrast to **active voice**

person: the grammatical category distinguishing first person (involving the speaker, *me*), second person (involving the hearer, *you*) and third person (involving any others, *she*, *them*)

person deixis: using words such as *him* or *them* as a way of “pointing” to a person with language

pharyngeal: a sound produced in the **pharynx**

pharynx: the area inside the throat above the **larynx**

philology: the study of language history and change

phone: a physically produced speech sound, representing one version of a **phoneme**

phoneme: the smallest meaning-distinguishing sound unit in the abstract representation of the sounds of a language

phonetic alphabet: a set of symbols, each one representing a distinct sound segment

phonetics: the study of the characteristics of speech sounds

phonology: the study of the systems and patterns of speech sounds in languages

phonotactics: constraints on the permissible combination of sounds in a language

phrase structure rules: rules stating that the structure of a phrase of a specific type consists of one or more constituents in a particular order

physical context: the situation, time or place in which words are used

pictogram (pictographic writing): a way of writing in which a picture/drawing of an object is used to represent the object

pidgin: a variety of a language that developed for a practical purpose such as trade, but which has no native speakers, in contrast to a **creole**

pitch: the effect of vibration in the **vocal folds**, making voices sound lower, higher, rising or falling

politeness: showing awareness and consideration of another person’s public self-image

polysemy: a word having two or more related meanings (e.g. *foot*, of person, of bed, of mountain)

positive face: the need to be connected, to belong, to be a member of a group, in contrast to **negative face**

positive transfer: the use of a feature from the **L1** that is similar to the **L2** while performing in the **L2**, in contrast to **negative transfer**

post-creole continuum: the range of varieties that evolves in communities where a **creole** is spoken, usually as a result of **decreolization**

postvocalic: used after a vowel

pragmatics: the study of speaker meaning and how more is communicated than is said

prefix: a **bound morpheme** added to the beginning of a word (e.g. *unhappy*)

preposition (Prep): a word such as *in* or *with* used with a **noun phrase**

preposition phrase (PP): a phrase such as *with a dog*, consisting of a **preposition** plus a **noun phrase**

prescriptive approach: an approach to grammar that has rules for the proper use of the language, traditionally based on Latin

grammar, in contrast to the **descriptive approach**

prestige: higher status

presupposition: an assumption by a speaker/writer about what is true or already known by the listener/reader

primary sign language: a sign language that is the first language of a group of people who are typically deaf and do not use a spoken language (e.g. **ASL**), in contrast to an **alternate sign language**

primes: the sets of features that form contrasting elements within the **articulatory parameters** of **ASL**

productivity: a property of language that allows users to create new expressions, also called “creativity” or “open-endedness”

pronoun (Pro): a word such as *it* or *them* used in place of a **noun phrase**

proper noun (PN): a noun such as *Cathy*, with an initial capital letter, used as the name of someone or something

prothesis: a sound change involving the addition of a sound to the beginning of a word (e.g. *spiritus* → *espíritu*)

Proto-Indo-European: the hypothesized original form of a language that was the source of many languages in India and Europe

prototype: the most characteristic instance of a category (e.g. “*Robin*” is the *prototype* of “*bird*”)

quality maxim: the assumption in conversation that you will “not say that which you believe to be false or for which you lack adequate evidence”

quantity maxim: the assumption in conversation that you will “make your

contribution as informative as is required, but not more, or less, than is required”

rebus writing: a way of writing in which a pictorial representation of an object is used to indicate the sound of the word for that object

recursion: the repeated application of a rule in generating structures

reduplication: the process of repeating all or part of a form

reference: an act by which a speaker/writer uses language to enable a listener/reader to identify someone or something

reflexivity: a special property of human language that allows language to be used to think and talk about language itself

register: a conventional way of using language that is appropriate in a specific situation, occupation or topic, characterized by the use of special **jargon**

relation maxim: the assumption in conversation that you will “be relevant”

reversives: antonyms in which the meaning of one is the reverse action of the other (e.g. *dress*–*undress*)

rhyme: the part of the **syllable** containing the **vowel** plus any following **consonant(s)**, also called “rime”

right ear advantage: the fact that humans typically hear speech sounds more readily via the right ear

Sapir–Whorf hypothesis: the general idea that differences in language structure cause people to view the world differently, from the names of two American linguists, Edward Sapir and Benjamin Whorf

schema: a conventional knowledge structure in memory for specific things, such as a supermarket (food is displayed on shelves, arranged in aisles, etc.)

schwa: a mid central vowel /ə/, often used in an unstressed **syllable** (e.g. *afford*, *oven*)

script: a conventional knowledge structure in memory for the series of actions involved in events such as “Going to the dentist”

second language (L2) learning: the process of developing ability in another language, after L1 acquisition

segment: an individual sound used in language

semantic features: basic elements such as “human,” included as plus (+ human) or minus (–human), used in an analysis of the components of word meaning

semantic role: the part played by a **noun phrase**, such as **agent**, in the event described by the sentence

semantics: the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences

shape: the configuration of the hand(s) as an **articulatory parameter** of **ASL**

Signed English: using English sentences with signs instead of words, also called Manually Coded English or MCE

Sign language (or Sign): a communication system using the hands (with the face and other parts of the body)

slang: words or phrases used instead of more conventional forms by those who are typically outside established higher status groups (e.g. *bucks* for *dollars*)

slip of the ear: a processing error in which one word or phrase is heard as another, as in hearing *great ape* when the utterance was “gray tape”

slip of the tongue: a speech error in which a sound or word is produced in the wrong place, as in *black bloxes* (instead of “black boxes”)

social category: a **category** in which group members are defined by social connections

social dialect: a variety of a language with features that differ according to the social status (e.g. middle class or working class) of the speaker

social gender: a distinction between individuals in terms of their social roles as women and men, in contrast to other types of **gender**

social marker: a linguistic feature that marks the speaker as a member of a particular social group

social variable: a factor such as working class or middle class that is used to identify one group of speakers as different from another

sociolect: social dialect, a variety of a language that is strongly associated with one social group (e.g. working-class speech)

sociolinguistic competence: the ability to use language appropriately according to the social context as part of **communicative competence**

sociolinguistics: the study of the relationship between language and society

sound loss: a sound change in which a particular sound is no longer used in a language (e.g. the velar fricative [x], in Scottish *loch*, but not in Modern English)

source: the **semantic role** of the noun phrase identifying where an entity moves from (e.g. *The boy ran from the house*)

spatial deixis: using words such as *here* or *there* as a way of “pointing” to a location with language

speech accommodation: modifying speech style toward (**convergence**) or away from (**divergence**) the perceived style of the person being talked to

- speech act:** an action such as “promising” performed by a speaker with an utterance, either as a **direct speech act** or an **indirect speech act**
- speech community:** a group of people who share a set of norms and expectations regarding the use of language
- speech style:** a way of speaking that is either formal/careful or informal/casual
- spoonerism:** a slip of the tongue in which two parts of words or two words are switched, as in *a dog of bag food* (for “a bag of dog food”)
- standard language:** the variety of a language treated as the official language and used in public broadcasting, publishing and education
- stem:** the base form to which **affixes** are attached in the formation of words
- stop:** a **consonant** produced by stopping the airflow, then letting it go, also called “plosive” (e.g. the first and last sounds in *cat*)
- strategic competence:** the ability to use language to organize effective messages and to overcome potential communication problems as part of **communicative competence**
- structural ambiguity:** a situation in which a single phrase or sentence has two (or more) different underlying structures and interpretations
- structural analysis:** the investigation of the distribution of grammatical forms in a language
- style-shifting:** changing **speech style** from formal to informal or vice versa
- subject:** the grammatical function of the **noun phrase** typically used to refer to someone or something performing the action of the **verb** (e.g. *The boy stole it*)
- suffix:** a **bound morpheme** added to the end of a word (e.g. *fainted, illness*)
- superordinate:** the higher-level term in **hyponymy** (e.g. *flower-daffodil*)
- surface structure:** the structure of individual sentences after the application of **movement rules** to **deep structure**
- syllabic writing (syllabary):** a way of writing in which each symbol represents a **syllable**
- syllable:** a unit of sound consisting of a vowel and optional consonants before or after the vowel
- synchronic variation:** differences in language form found in different places at the same time, in contrast to **diachronic variation**
- synonymy:** the **lexical relation** in which two or more words have very closely related meanings (e.g. “*Conceal*” is a synonym of “*hide*”)
- syntax (syntactic structures):** (the analysis of) the structure of phrases and sentences
- taboo terms:** words or phrases that are avoided in formal speech, but are used in swearing, for example (e.g. *fuck*)
- tag questions:** short questions consisting of an **auxiliary** (e.g. *don’t*) and a **pronoun** (e.g. *you*), added to the end of a statement (e.g. *I hate it when it rains all day, don’t you?*)
- task-based learning:** using activities involving information exchange and problem solving as a way of developing ability in language
- telegraphic speech:** strings of words (**lexical morphemes** without **inflectional morphemes**) in phrases (*daddy go bye-bye*) produced by two-year-old children
- temporal deixis:** using words such as *now* or *tomorrow* as a way of “pointing” to a time with language

tense: the grammatical category distinguishing forms of the **verb** as present tense and past tense

theme: the **semantic role** of the noun phrase used to identify the entity involved in or affected by the action of the verb in an event (e.g. *The boy kicked the ball*)

tip of the tongue phenomenon: the experience of knowing a word, but being unable to access it and bring it to the surface in order to say it

traditional grammar: the description of the structure of phrases and sentences based on established categories used in the analysis of Latin and Greek

transfer: using sounds, expressions and structures from the **L1** while performing in an **L2**

tree diagram: a diagram with branches showing the **hierarchical organization** of structures

turn: in conversation, the unit of talk by one speaker, ended by the beginning of the next speaker's unit of talk

turn-taking: the way in which each speaker takes a **turn** in conversation

T/V distinction: the difference between pronouns such as *tu* (socially close) and *vous* (socially distant) in French, used as **address terms**

two-word stage: a period beginning at around 18–20 months when children produce two terms together as an utterance (*baby chair*)

uvula: the small appendage at the end of the **velum**

uvular: a sound produced with the back of the tongue near the **uvula**

velar: a **consonant** produced by raising the back of the tongue to the **velum** (e.g. the first and last sounds in *geek*)

velum: the soft area at the back of the roof of the mouth, also called the “soft palate”

verb (V): a word such as *go*, *drown* or *know* used to describe an action, event or state

verb phrase (VP): a phrase such as *saw a dog*, containing a **verb** and other constituents

vernacular: a social dialect with low prestige spoken by a lower-status group, with marked differences from the **standard language**

vocal folds (or cords): thin strips of muscle in the **larynx** which can be open, in **voiceless sounds**, or close together, creating vibration in **voiced sounds**

voiced sounds: speech sounds produced with vibration of the **vocal folds**

voiceless sounds: speech sounds produced without vibration of the **vocal folds**

vowel: a sound produced through the **vocal folds** without constriction of the airflow in the mouth

Wernicke's aphasia: a language disorder in which comprehension is typically slow while speech is fluent, but vague and missing content words

Wernicke's area: a part of the brain in the left hemisphere involved in language comprehension

writing: the symbolic representation of language through the use of graphic signs