

Language: What is it?

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Tell me your name without moving
your mouth or your hands.

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Language: Definition (1)

Language is a purely **human** and **non-instinctive** method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of **voluntarily produced symbols** (Sapir, 1921)

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Why Human Language is Unique

Human Language	Animal Language
No relationship between sound and meaning, many possible combinations.	Sound directly related to meaning.
Use of grammar to create complex structures.	Lacking grammatical structure.

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Language: Definition (2)

A language is a system of **arbitrary vocal symbols** by means of which a social group **co-operates** (Bloch & Trager, 1942)

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Language: Definition (3)

- Language is the **institution** whereby humans **communicate** and **interact** with each other by means of **habitually** used **oral-auditory arbitrary symbols** (Hall, 1968)

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Language: Definition (4)

Language is a **set** (finite or infinite) of **sentences**, each **finite in length** and **constructed out of a finite set of elements** (Chomsky, 1957).

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Language: Definition (5)

Language is a **system** of **arbitrary vocal symbols** used by members of a society to **cooperate**, **communicate**, and to show **self-identity** (Kridalaksana, 2005)

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Why do we learn linguistics?

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- Pronounce the following sentence:
 - Thank you for the tank-top, but I think that thing is disgusting.
- Can you explain these?:
 - fesbukan
 - KTG U D T4 BRSA
- Are these similar?
 - Manthuk Vs Mantuk (Javanese)
- What do these mean actually?
 - Dicari: Penjahit wanita
 - The woman hit the man with a long stick.

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A panda bear walks into a restaurant. He orders the special and eats it. After eating, he pulls out a pistol, kills the waiter and starts to walk out the door.

The owner of the restaurant says, "Hey, what are you doing? You come in here, you kill my waiter and walk away without saying a word. I don't understand."

The panda says, "Look it up in the dictionary," and walks out the door.

So the owner gets out a dictionary and looks under the heading "Panda". It reads: **panda** black and white animal; lives in central China; eats shoots and leaves.

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- Under what conditions would the ability to communicate be less important to you than your eyes, mouth and hands?
- In what situations might your ability to communicate be more important to you than your eyes, mouth and hands?

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- Announcement
- Advertisement
- News on Radio, TV, Internet, or Papers
- Lelayu
- Pamphlet
- Banner
- Oral Use of Language

Pay your attention to:

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- Characteristics of Language
- Functions of Language

Next Session

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