

# Introduction to Linguistics

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# Linguistics

- What is LINGUISTICS?
- What is LANGUAGE?
  - Who learns (can learn) a language?
  - Are some languages more complex/primitive than others?
  - Are some languages more difficult to learn than others?
  - Can languages be acquired at any age?
- What are LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS?
- What is APPLIED LINGUISTICS?

When we study human language, we are approaching what some might call the “human essence”, the distinctive qualities of mind that are, so far as we know, unique to man.

Noam Chomsky, *Language and Mind*

Is language unique to humans?

T or F?

“Wherever humans exist, language exists”.

# UNIVERSALS

vowels/consonants

negation

questions

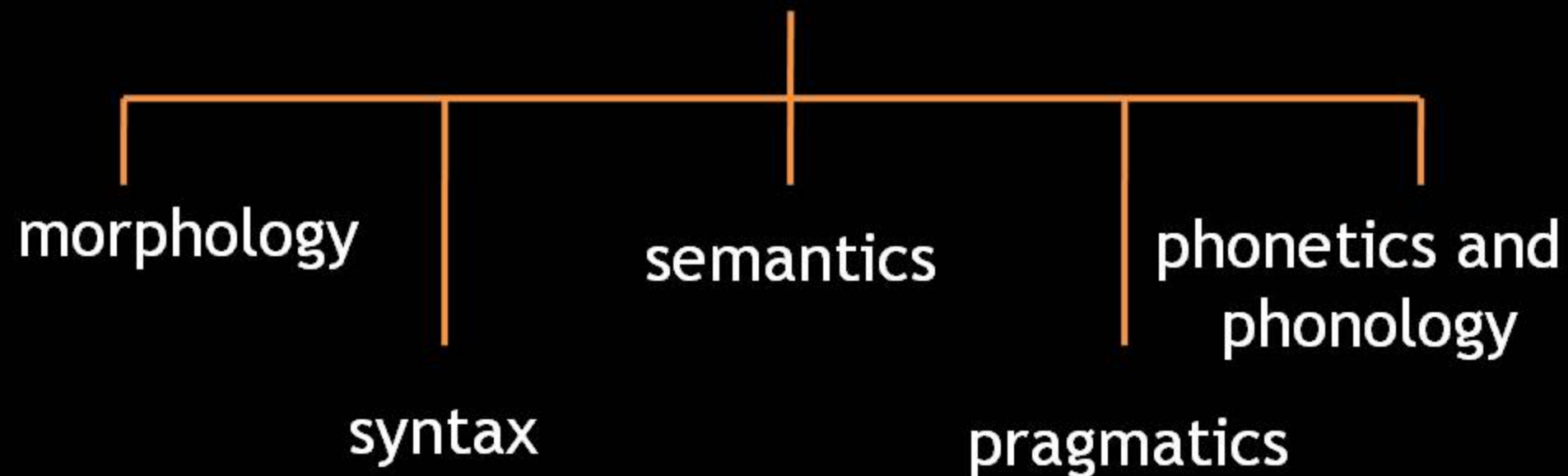
male/female

nouns

verbs

past/present/future

# LINGUISTICS



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# Morphology



# Syntax

- Notion of Sentences and Nonsentences (even when not heard before or produced before)

John kissed the little old lady who owned that shaggy dog.

What he did was climb a tree.

What he though was want a sports car.

Drink your beer and go home!

What are drinking and go home?

I expect them to arrive a week from next Tuesday.

I expect a week from next Tuesday to arrive them.



# Syntax

- Descriptive vs. Prescriptive Grammar



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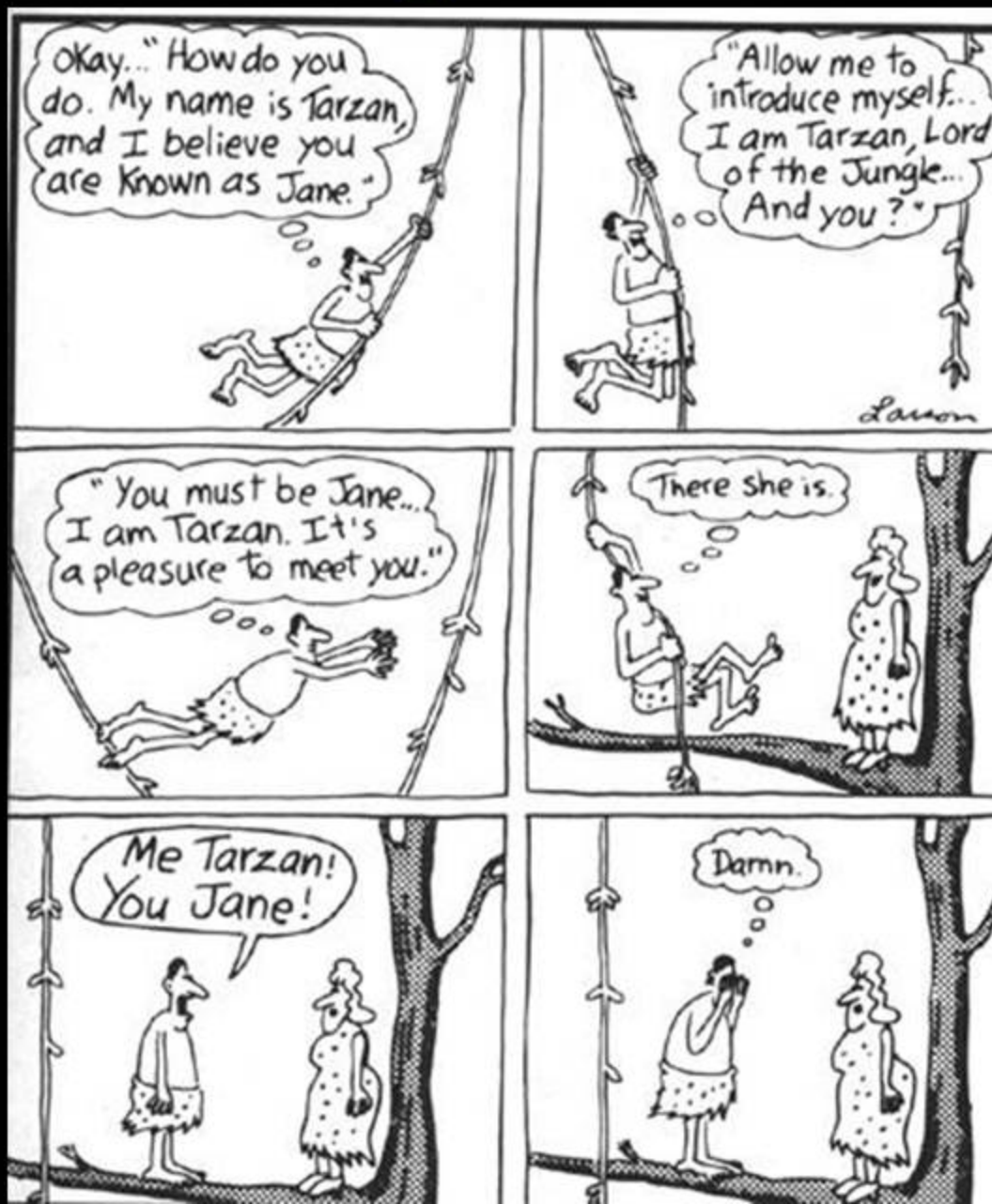
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# Semantics

- Signified vs. Signifier (Saussure)
- “Life is preverbal” (Lacan)

# Pragmatics



# fə'netiks ænd fə'nalədʒi

## Features of pronunciation

### Segmental features

Consonants

vowels

voiced

unvoiced

Single

Diphthongs

short

Long

### Suprasegmental features

Intonation

Stress

Sentence stress

Word stress

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