

# **Linguistics : Defintion and Characteristics**

## **P.G. Semester III**

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Linguistics can be defined as the scientific study of human language which tries to uncover the underlying structures of human language. Before twentieth century the scholars primarily focysed on the aspect of grammar and evolutionary aspect of language which is termed as philology, but linguistics is far wider than that as the realm of linguistics to figure out the underlying structure not only of a language, but language as per se.

### **Linguistics and its different subfields**

There are different sub-fields of linguistics which tries to structurally figure out the ways language is manifested by us in our use of it. The different sub-fields include:

#### **Phonetics**

It is the study of physical properties of speech production and perception. It is the scientific study and classification of sounds. The English language has 44 sounds which consist of 20 vowel sounds and 24 consonant sounds.

**Phonology**

It is the study of sounds (or signs) as discrete, abstract elements in the speaker's mind that distinguish meaning.

**Morphology**

It is the study of internal structures of words and how they can be formed or modified.

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