

English Special III ★
An Introduction to the Study of the English Language

Semester V

Subject Code: A51715

Lectures: 60

Objectives:

- To familiarize students with different aspects of communication and the distinctive nature of human language as a means of communication
- To expose students to basic concepts in Modern Linguistics
- To acquaint students with the phonological, morphological and syntactic systems of the English language
- To enhance the grammatical competence of students along with the situational, contextual, social and cultural appropriateness of the language
- To introduce students to some advanced areas of English language study
- To equip the learners with skills in academic writing and editing

Unit 1: What is language?

04

- Differences between Human language and animal communication
- Characteristics of language
- Basic functions of language
- Features of Speech and Writing and the lack of correspondence between the two in English

Unit 2: English Language Today

10

- English as a global language
- First Language, Second language and Foreign Language and the Status of English in India
- British English, American English, and Indian English: Major Characteristics - Phonological Features, Syntactic Features, Features of Vocabulary, Spelling Conventions

Unit 3: An Introduction to Linguistics and the Branches of Linguistics

06

- Linguistics as a science
- Branches of Linguistics
 - Micro Linguistics - Phonetics / Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics
 - Macro Linguistics – Sociolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, Neuro linguistics, Computational Linguistics – Definition, Scope and Application



**Unit 4: The Phonology of English**

14

- Speech Mechanism and the articulation of sounds
- Concept of a Minimal Pair
- The Phonemes of English - Consonants & Vowels
- Phonemic transcription of words
- The Syllable and the Syllabic Consonants

Unit 5: The Grammar of English

14

- Grammar and Usage
- Grammaticality and acceptability.
- The following units from A Communicative Grammar of English (1975, reprint 1992) by Leech, Geoffrey and Svartvik, Jan.
 - Section A – Concepts**
 - Definite and indefinite meaning
 - Restrictive and non-restrictive meaning
 - Time, tense and aspect
 - Place, direction and distance
 - Section D – Meanings in Connected Discourse**
 - Linking clauses and sentences
 - Cross-reference and omission
 - Presenting and focusing information

***Assignments and library hours – 12 hours**

Recommended Text Books:

- Leech, Geoffrey and Jan Svartvik A Communicative Grammar of English (1975, rpt. 1992) Longman Group UK Ltd. 1975 (reprint 1994).
- Bansal, R.K. and Harrison J.B.. Spoken English for India. New Delhi: Orient Longman, 1972.
- Balasubramaniam, T.A.. Text book of English Phonetics for Indian Students. Madras: Macmillan, 1992.

Reference Books:

- Quirk, R. The Use of English. London: Longman, 1962.
- Gimson, A.C. An Introduction to The Pronunciation of English. (a revised edition). London: Edward Arnold, 1966.
- Kachru, B.B. The Indianization of English: The English Language in India . Delhi: OUP, 1983.



- Anderson, W.L. and Stageberg, N.C. Introductory Readings on Language (4th Edition). New York: Holt, Rinehart and Wilson, 1975.
 - Crystal, David. Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1995.
 - Crystal, David. The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Language. Cambridge: CUP, 1987.
 - Crystal, David and Derek Davy. Investigating English Style. London: Longman, 1969.
 - Hudson, R.A. Sociolinguistics. Cambridge: CUP, 2003.
 - Roach, P.. English Phonetics and Phonology Cambridge: CUP, 1983.
 - Krishnaswamy, Verma and Nagarajan. Modern Applied Linguistics. Madras: Macmillan, 1992.
 - Leech, G.N. Principles of Pragmatics. London: Longman, 1983.
 - Levinson, S.C. Pragmatics. Cambridge: CUP 1983..
 - Lyons, J. Language and Linguistics. Cambridge: CUP, 2003.
 - O'Connor, J.D. Better English Pronunciation (New Edition): New Delhi: Universal Book Stall, 1992.
 - Yule, George. The Study of Language. Cambridge: CUP, 2003.
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Unit 1: Sociolinguistics - Language and Society

10

- Language Variation
 - Regional Variation / Dialects
 - Social Variation / Sociolects
 - Individual Variation / Idiolects
 - Stylistic Variation / (Different kinds of Styles)
 - Register
- Language Contact
 - Code – Switching / Code Mixing
 - Pidgins and Creoles

Unit 2: The Phonology of English

10

- Word Stress
- Weak Forms
- Sentence Stress
- Intonation

Unit 3: The Morphology of English

10

- What is Morphology?
- Concept of a word
- The structure of words
- Morphemes & Allomorphs, Types of Morphemes
- Processes of Word Formation: affixation, compounding, conversion,





clipping, blending, acronymy, back- formation

Unit 4: Basics of Academic Writing and Editing

18

- Grammar and Punctuation - Review
- Three types of academic essays
 - Compare / Contrast
 - Cause / Effect
 - Argumentative
- Research for Essay Writing
 - Choosing a topic
 - Writing an outline
 - Finding source material (reliability)
 - Taking and organising Notes
 - Using appropriate language
 - Documenting Sources
- Revising, Editing, Proof reading
- Writing a Research Paper

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- Bansal, R.K. and Harrison J.B.. Spoken English for India. New Delhi: Orient Longman, 1972.
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- Levinson, S.C. Pragmatics, Cambridge: CUP 1983..
- Lyons, J. Language and Linguistics. Cambridge: CUP, 2003.
- O'Connor, J.D. Better English Pronunciation (New Edition): New Delhi: Universal Book Stall, 1992.
- Yule, George. The Study of Language. Cambridge: CUP, 2003.
- Bailey, S. Academic Writing: A Handbook for International Students: London and New York, Routledge, 2001.
- Craswell.G. Writing for Academic Success : Sage Publications, 2004

