《语言学教程》导读

A Practical Guide to Linguistics

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英语专业硕士研究生入学考试必备

《语言学教程》导读

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前　言

　　2001 年北京大学出版社出版了胡壮麟主编的《语言学教程》（修订版）（以下简称《教程》）。《教程》简介了中外语言学研究状况、不同流派倡导的理论以及语言学与相关学科的关系，因而被很多大学列为本科语言学课程和硕士研究生入学考试的教材。但是，由于语言学初学者在语言及语言学方面的功底薄弱，《教程》的内容并不能被每个学生充分地理解。语言学的基本理论、基本概念都比较抽象难懂，加之没有足够的练习题来巩固所学知识，这些都是学生掌握语言学的难题。针对以上这些问题我们编写了这本书。

　　本书主要分三大部分：

　　一、对《教程》内容的重点讲解。

　　对《教程》内容用中文进行重点讲解，点出重要概念和特别要注意的地方。然后是按字母顺序排列的本章所涉及的术语的英文定义。

　　二、巩固提高练习。

　　巩固提高部分有大量的练习题并附有答案，使学习者能够在做题中消化和掌握所学的每章的内容。

　　三、综合测试试卷。

　　本书的最后一部分是综合测试部分。这一部分提供了成套的综合测试试卷，旨在对学习者的学习效果做一个综合测评，帮助学习者了解自己的整体学习水平，同时也训练了应试能力。每套试卷后也附有答案。

　　本书虽然导读的是《教程》，但在练习的编写过程中并不局限于《教程》，因为理论和概念正过来讲解和反过来讲解都是一回事。另外，本书还补充和强化了《教程》中一带而过然而又是比较重要的理论和概念的内容。

　　由于编者水平有限，本书中的错误在所难免，希望广大读者批评指正。本书编写过程中参阅了同行的相关资料，在此一并表示致谢。

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编者

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语言学简介

第**1**章

Invitations to Linguistics

理论简介

一、本章重点

语言学是一门研究语言的科学。要对语言学有一定的了解就要从三个基本方面着眼：为什么要研究语言学、语言学研究的对象、语言以及语言学研究的基本状况。

1. 语言学存在的原因

首先，我们要理清语言学存在的原因。如前所述，语言学是一门研究语言的学科。这门学科的存在必定有它的道理。语言是人类所特有的，在语言的帮助下人们进行交流、记录历史、学习经验等与人类文明与进步息息相关的活动。对语言的研究可以更好地弄清大脑是如何工作的、大脑的损伤是怎样致使语言失调的、儿童是如何学习语言的、人们是如何学习并讲授不同语言的、意义与概念的关系是什么、不同文化中的语言作用是什么、为什么人们会用不同的语言变体、为什么不同群体之间存在着语言差异、科学家是如何使计算机的工作方式更象人的思维等等诸如此类的问题。语言在我们作为个人和社会人的生活中扮演着主要角色。如果我们不充分认识到人类语言的本质及机制，我们就会对于构成人类与动物的区别的实质一无所知。

总之，对语言进行研究使人类更好地认识自己、揭示人类自身的存在及发展规律等有着很大的帮助，使人类朝向更健康、更文明的方向快速发展。

2. 语言学研究的对象——语言

在这部分中，我们要掌握三个方面的知识——语言的定义、语言的起源及语言的功能。

语言的定义及与之有关的四大区别性特征将在"重要概念"部分加以说明。在这里我们要介绍一下语言的起源问题。关于语言起源的问题至今还没有一个明确的说法。粗略来说，目前语言学界大概有四种观点："太初有道"说、拟声说、感叹说以及劳动喊声说。"太初有道"说认为语言的产生与神的力量与旨意关系密切。拟声说认为语言是远古时代人们模仿其居住在野外环境中的动物叫声时而发展起来的。感叹说则认为，语言的原型是最初我们远古祖先由于生活中的艰辛或快乐等因素而发出的痛苦、愤怒与兴奋等本能的声音。在劳动喊声说中，语言学家认为当古代人们一起工作时，他们发出某些富有节奏的哼哼声，这些哼哼声逐渐发展为歌声，

随后也便形成了语言。诸如此类的说法还有很多,没有定论。但有一点可以肯定,那就是语言是在具体的历史、社会和文化背景中演变而来的。

作为人类特有的专长,语言在人类进步与发展的进程中功不可没,而这是与其所负担的功能不可分割的。很多语言学家都注意到语言的功能,并发表了很多关于语言功能的见解。如雅各布逊在交际的六个要素之上建立了著名的语言功能框架:即所指功能、诗学功能、表情功能、意动功能、寒暄功能和元语功能。而韩礼德侧重于语言自身的表意提出了三大元语言功能:意念功能、人际功能与语篇功能。除了韩礼德与雅各布逊关于语言功能的分类定义还有很多关于语言功能的理论及观点。总结各家之言我们得出大致的七个功能:信息功能、人际功能、行事功能、表情功能、寒暄功能、娱乐功能和元语言功能。信息功能是指语言可以用来表达言者的真实世界经验,包括其意识的内心世界。人际功能可以使人们用语言来建立并保持其在社会中的地位。例如,人们称呼其他人及提及自身的方式表明了人际关系的不同等级。语言的行事功能主要是指语言改变人的社会关系和地位的功能。如对罪犯的宣判、为孩子祝福、给船的命名等都可以建立、改变人的社会地位。表情功能指语言可以用来表达自己的感情反应,如人受到刺激后发出的感叹等。寒暄功能指人们可以用语言来进行社会交际,如问好等。娱乐功能是指语言可以用来进行娱乐,如对歌现象。元语功能是指人类语言可以用来谈论其自身。不同的用词、篇章安排可以表达一定的意义。如将一句话中状语提前则表明作者想要强调信息的意图。

到目前为止,我们弄清了为什么要学习语言学及与语言有关的主要问题,接下来我们要简单认识一下语言学研究的基本状况。主要包括语言学的主要分支、宏观语言学及语言学中主要的对立观点。

3. 语言学研究的现状

对语言几个层面的研究构成语言学的六个主要分支——语音学、音系学、形态学、句法、语义学及语用学。

语音学主要研究言语语音,包括言语的产生。是研究言语语音实际上是如何发出、传播与接收的,研究如何描写言语语音。音系学则研究支配语音结构、分布的规则,以及语音序列与音节形成的规律。形态学涉及的是词的内部组织,它研究意义的最小单位——词素与构词过程和规律。语义学是研究意义在语言中是如何编码的。而语用学是研究语境中的意义的。

宏观语言学实质上是其他学科与语言学相结合的产物,包括很多派系。如心理语言学,它研究语言与思维之间的关系,比如在话语处理与生成,以及语言习得过程中语言与思维是如何相互影响的。社会语言学涵盖了对语言和社会的种种不同的研究,包括对语言的社会功能及其使用者的社会特征等的研究。人类语言学则更偏重于对语言与人类生存及发展之间关系的研究。还有计算机语言学,此门学科主要研究如何利用计算机来处理或生成人类语言。

在语言学这门庞大的学科发展的过程中,语言学家门不断提出自己的见解及解决语言学问题的方法。经过反复的推理及验证,新的观点代替了落伍的想法,出现了不同角度的理论。下面介绍几组对立的概念:描述和规定。这是对语言学性质持的两种看法。认为语言学是描述性的语言学家认为语言学的任务是描述某种语言的特点及规律。持语言学是规定性的语言学家则认为语言学应为某具体语言在使用上确定一套正确的规则。

共时和历时。共时描写把一种固定的时间作为观察点,来进行对语言的研究。而历时语言学是通过其历史发展过程对语言进行研究,如对某种语言在历史中的发展演变的研究。

语言和言语。言语和语言的区分是索绪尔提出的。他认为,语言是指整个社会所认同的语言整体,言语指语言的实际运用现象或供研究的资料。

语言能力与语言运用。乔姆斯基认为语言使用者关于规则系统的基础性知识被称为其语言能力。而语言运用是指具体情景中的语言实际运用。

非位和对位。这两个术语是源自美国语言学家派克有关语音学和音系学的区分。非位研究是指对具体语言材料的研究,而对位研究侧重于观察并总结语言材料的关系、规律及特点。

二. 本章重要概念

1. 语言:关于语言的定义有很多说法。一些知名的词典也给出了相应的解释。总结归纳各家之言我们得出一种较精确具体的定义方法,即用语言的四大结构特征来定义语言。这些特征也是区别人类语言与动物"语言"的主要因素,它们包括任意性、二重性、创造性和移位性。

2. 任意性:任意性最先由索绪尔提出,用来指语言符号形式与其意义之间不存在任何必然联系关系。比如"桌子"一词最初完全有可能被用来命名其他的物体。

3. 二重性:二重性指语言结构具有的双层面的特征,其中主要层面单位是由次要层面成分组成,每个层面都有其自身的组织原则,例如语言的低层单位诸如词素等可以组成更高一级的单位,比如词和词组。

4. 创造性:创造性是指语言因其二重性和归递性特征而具有的丰富的创造来源。语言的创造性部分源自于其自身的二重性,也就是说,因为有了二重性,说话者便能够将基本的语言单位组成无限数量的句子,而这其中的绝大数句子却是以前从未有过或听到过的。另一方面,语言的递归性为创造性提供了基础。

5. 移位性:移位指人类语言能使其使用者用符号表示物体、事件和概念,而这些物体、事件和概念在交际时可能不在现场。移位性可以使人类具有概括与抽象的能力。

三. 特别注意

1. 语言由其四个特点定义——任意性、二重性、创造性和移位性。这四个特点缺一不可,只有同时具备这四个特点才能将人类的语言与动物的交流手段区别开来。有的动物所用的交流手段具有一种或两种人类语言的特点,但不可能包含那些特点的全部,所以说不能被称为语言。

2. 目前语言学界的学术研究既有纵向也有横向的,但总的发展趋势是向着描写性发展,而摒弃规定性的存在。

3. 语言的功能观是人们研究语言的本质的结果。

4. 任何语言都由三大系统构成:声音系统、词汇语法系统和语义系统。

5. 语言学研究中产生的几组对立的概念反映了人们研究的角度、方法和对语言的认识的不同。

相关术语

acoustic phonetics

Acoustic phonetics refers to the study of the properties of the sound waves.

anthropological linguistics

Anthropological linguistics uses the theories and methods of anthropology to study language variation and language use in relation to the actual patterns and beliefs of man.

applied linguistics

Applied linguistics is a term covering several linguistic subjects as well as certain interdisciplinary areas that use linguistic methods, like psycholinguistics, computational linguistics, sociolinguistics, etc. to study the nature of language teaching.

arbitrariness

Arbitrariness refers to the fact that the forms of linguistic signs bear no natural relationship to their meanings.

articulatory phonetics

Articulatory phonetics refers to the study of articulatory organs and the investigation of the speech sounds produced by these organs by identifying and classifying the individual sounds.

auditory phonetics

Auditory phonetics focuses on the way in which a listener analyses or processes a sound wave.

bow-wow theory

Bow-wow theory is a theory about the origin of language. In this theory language developed from the people imitating the sounds of the animal calls in the wild environment they lived.

competence

Competence is the ideal language user's knowledge of the rules of his language.

computational linguistics

Computational linguistics is an interdisciplinary field which centers on the use of computers to process or produce human language.

convention

A regularity in the behavior of members of a given group who repeatedly find themselves confronted by a problem of co-ordination, who solve this problem in one of several possible ways, and in return expect the response by others in the group.

creativity

By creativity we mean language is resourceful because of its duality and its repulsiveness.

descriptive study

Descriptive study refers to the study of language in which the rules to which the members of a language community actually conform are just described.

design features

Design features are the features that define our human languages. The frequently discussed design features are arbitrariness, duality, creativity and replacement.

diachronic linguistics

Diachronic linguistics is the study of language through the course of its history.

dialect

Dialect is a linguistic system that is tied to a specific region in such a way that the regional distribution of the system does not overlap with an area covered by another such system.

displacement

Displacement means that human languages enable their users to symbolize objects, events and concepts which are not present (in time and space) at the moment of communication.

duality

Duality is the property of having two levels of structures, such that units of the primary level are composed of elements of the secondary level and each of the two levels has its own principles of organization.

etic vs. emic analysis

Following the suffix formations of (phon) etics vs. (phon) emics, this term was introduced into the social sciences by Swadesh (1934) and Pike (1967) to denote the distinction between the material and functional study of language: phonetics studies the acoustically measurable and articulatorily definable immediate sound utterances, whereas

phonemics analyzed the specific selection each language makes from that universal catalogue from a functional (=distinctive) aspect.

emotive function

Emotive function refers to the function of language by which people change the emotional status of an audience for or against someone or something.

informative function

Informative function refers to the function of language by which people tell what the speaker believes, give information about facts or reason things out. One important feature of this functions that the speaker commits himself to the truth that something is or is not the case.

interpersonal function

Interpersonal function refers to the function of language by which people make sociological use of language to establish and maintain their status in a society.

language

Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication. It is instrumental in that communicating by speaking or writing is a purposeful act. It is social and conventional in that language is a social semiotic and communication can only take place effectively if all the users share a broad understanding of human interaction including such associated factors as nonverbal cues, motivation, and socio-cultural roles.

langue

Langue refers to the abstract linguistic system shared by all the members of a speech community.

linguistics

Linguistics is usually defined as the science of language, or as the scientific study of language.

macrolinguistics

Macrolinguistics is the scientific investigation of all related disciplines such as sociology, psychology and philosophy.

metalingual function

Metalingual function is the function of language by which people discuss language by itself.

morpheme

Morpheme is the minimal unit of meaning.

morphology

Morphology is concerned with the internal organization of words. It studies the minimal units of meaning-morphemes and word formation processes.

onomatopoetic word

Onomatopoetic word is the word which is formed through the imitation of sounds from nature.

parole

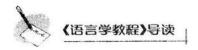Parole refers to the actualized language, or realization of language.

performance

Performance is the actual realization of the ideal language user's knowledge of the rules of his language in linguistic communication.

performative function

Performative function refers to the function of language by which people use language to

"do things", to perform actions.

phatic communion
Phatic communion refers to the social interaction of language.

phoneme
Phoneme is the basic unit in phonology. It is a unit that is of distinctive value. But it is an abstract unit. To be exact, a phoneme is not a sound, but a collection of distinctive phonetic features such as /p/ and /b/.

phonetics
phonetics studies speech sounds, including the production of speech, that is how speech sounds are actually made, transmitted and received, the sound of speech, the description and classification of speech sounds, words and connected speech, etc.

phonology
Phonology studies the rules governing the structure, distribution and sequencing of speech sounds and the shape of syllables.

pooh-pooh theory
Pooh-pooh theory is about the origin of language. In this theory, language is developed through our primitive ancestors uttering instinctive sounds of pain, anger and joy in their hard life.

pragmatics
Pragmatics is the study of meaning in context. It deals with particular utterances in particular situations and is especially concerned with the various ways in which the many social contexts of language performance can influence interpretation. In other words, pragmatics is concerned with the way language is used to communicate rather than with the way language is structured.

prescriptive study
Prescriptive study is the study of language in which rules are laid down for "correct" behaviors.

psycholinguistics
Psycholinguistics investigates the interrelation of language and mind, in processing and producing utterances and in language acquisition for example.

recreational function
Recreational function refers to the function of language which will bring joy to people for its own sake.

recursiveness
Recursiveness is a term borrowed from mathematics and used in linguistics for the formal properties of grammars, which use a finite inventory of elements and a finite group of rules to produce an infinite number of sentences.

semantics
Semantics is a branch of linguistics which examines how meaning is encoded in a language. It is not only concerned with meaning of words as lexical items, but also with levels of language below the word and above it, e. g. meaning of morphemes and sentences.

sociolinguistics
Sociolinguistics is the study of the characteristics of language varieties, the characteristics of their functions, and the characteristics of their speakers as these three constantly interact and

change within a speech community.

synchronic study 共时研究

Synchronic study is the study of language by taking a fixed instant (usually, but not necessarily, present) as its point of observation.

syntax

Syntax is about principles of forming and understanding correct English sentences.

yo-he-ho theory

Yo-he-ho theory is a theory about the origin of language. In this theory language is developed from some rhythmic grunts that are produced by primitive people when they work together.

巩固提高

I. Define the following terms, giving examples for illustration.

1. duality
2. displacement
3. informative function
4. onomatopoetic word
5. recursiveness
6. langue & parole
7. competence & performance
8. synchronic & diachronic

II. Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false. If it is false, state the reason.

1. ( ) Linguistics is generally defined as the scientific study of a particular language.
2. ( ) If a linguistic study describes and analyzes the language people actually use, it is said to be descriptive.
3. ( ) Design features refer to the defining properties of human language that distinguish it from any system of communication.
4. ( ) No animal communication system has duality or even comes near to processing it.
5. ( ) Animal communication system can be used to refer things which are present or not present.
6. ( ) The function of language is to exchange information.
7. ( ) Language has a form- meaning correspondence.
8. ( ) Children learn their native language swiftly, efficiently and without instruction.
9. ( ) Arbitrariness is one of the design features of language, so language is totally arbitrary.
10. ( ) Language operates by rules.
11. ( ) For learners of foreign languages, it is the arbitrariness of a language that is more worth noticing than its conventionality.

12. (T) Language is instrumental, social and conventional.

13. (F) The <u>properties of the words by human beings and calls that animals make</u> are the same. duality.

14. (F) Every person speaks a dialect.

15. (T) Language slowly changes.

16. (F) Any system of communication is a kind of language.

17. (T) The honeybee's dance can refer to a source of food, which is remote in time and space when he reports it, so we say that the dance has the property of replacement and is a kind of language.

18. (F) The fact that we can understand some abstract terms like joy and hatred shows that language has the property of creativity.

19. (T) Speakers of all languages employ a range of styles and a set of jargons.

20. (T) Languages are intimately related to the societies and individuals who use them.

21. (T) Writing is derivative of speech.

22. (T) Context is related to the referential function of language.

23. (F) The phatic function of language corresponds to the communication element of addressee.

24. (F) Phonetics is included in phonology.

25. (F) Word is the basic meaningful element of a language.

26. (F) Morphology is about principles of forming and understanding correct sentences.

27. (F) Linguistics is usually defined as the science of language or the scientific study of language. So language is only studied in the field of linguistics.

28. (F) In the grammar presenting, description is better than prescription, so we should completely avoid prescription.

29. (F) A book that concerns the Latin grammar in the 16th century is a study toward grammar in history, so we say that the book is of diachronic study.

III. Fill in each of the following blanks with appropriate word(s).

1. All languages have three major components: a sound system, a system of lexico-gramm...

2. Language is instrumental in that communicating by speaking or writing is a purposeful act.

3. Language is social and conventional in that language is a social semiotic and communication can only take place effectively if all the users share a broad understanding of human interaction.

4. The features that define our human languages can be called features, which include _____, _____, _____. arbitrariness creativity replacement

5. Displacement is the opposite side of arbitrariness.

6. The fact that in the system of spoken language, we have the primary units as words and secondary units as sound shows that language has the property of duality.

7. Language is resourceful because of its _____ and its _____, which contributes to the _____ of language.

8. Displacement benefits human beings by giving them the power to handle generalization and abstractions.

9. In Jakobson's version, there are six functions of language, namely, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____ and metalingual function.

10. When people use language to express attitudes, feelings and emotions, people are using the _____ function of language.

11. In functional grammar, language has three metafunctions, namely, _____, _____, _____.

12. Among the three metafunctions, _____ creates relevance to context.

13. The _____ function of language is primary to change the social status of persons.

14. It is generally agreed that linguistics should include at least five parameters, namely, _____, _____, _____ and _____.

15. In _____ phonetics, we study the speech sounds produced by articulatory organs by identifying and classifying the individual sounds. .

16. In _____ phonetics, we focus on the way in which a listener analyzes or processes a sound wave.

17. _____ is the minimal unit of meaning.

18. The study of sounds used in linguistic communication is called _____

19. The study of how sounds are put together and used to convey meaning in communication is called _____

20. The study of the way in which symbols that represent sounds in linguistic communicate are arranged to form words has constituted the branch of study called _____

21. The study of rules which governs the combinations of words to form permissible sentences constitutes a major branch of linguistic studies that is _____

IV. Mark the choice that can best complete the statement.

1. The description of a language at some point in time is a _____ study.
   A. descriptive   B. prescriptive   C. synchronic   D. diachronic

2. According to Chomsky, a speaker can produce and understand an infinitely large number of sentence because _____.
   A. he has come across all of them in his life.
   B. he has internalized a set of rules about his language.
   C. he has the innate ability to do it.
   D. He has learned all the rules of his language.

3. Saussure's distinction between langue and parole is very similar to Chomsky's distinction, between competence and performance, but Saussure takes a _____ view of language and Chomsky looks at language from a _____ point of view.
   A. sociological, psychologica   B. psychological, sociological
   C. biological, psychological   D. psychological, biological

4. The fact that there is no intrinsic connection between the word pen and the thing we write with indicates language is _____.
   A. arbitrary   B. rule-governed   C. combined   D. illogical

5. We can understand and produce an infinitely large number of sentence including sentences we never heard before, because language is _____.
   A. creative   B. arbitrary   C. understandable   D. unique

6. _____ means language can be used to refer to contexts removed from the immediate situations of the speaker.

A. Duality   B. Displacement   C. Productivity   D. Arbitrariness

7. _____ examines how meaning is encoded in a language.

     A. Phonetics   B. Syntax   C. Semantics   D. Pragmatics

8. _____ is concerned with the internal organization of words.

     A. Morphology   B. Syntax   C. Semantics   D. Phonology

9. _____ refers to the fact that the forms of linguistic signs bear no natural relationship to their meaning.

     A. Duality   B. Arbitrariness   C. Replacement   D. Creativity

10. _____ of language makes it potentially creative, and _____ of language makes learning a language laborious.

     A. Conventionality, arbitrariness   B. Arbitrariness, replacement

     C. Arbitrariness, conventionality   D. Conventionality, arbitrariness

11. When people use language to indulge in itself for its own sake, people are using the _____ function of language.

     A. poetic   B. creative   C. phatic   D. metalingual

12. _____ proposes a theory of metafunctions of language.

     A. Chomsky   B. Saussure   C. Jacobson   D. Halliday

13. _____ function constructs a model of experience and constructs logical relations.

     A. Interpersonal   B. Textual   C. Logical   D. Ideational

14. Interpersonal function enacts _____ relationship.

     A. social   B. experiential   C. textual   D. personal

15. By _____ function people establish and maintain their status in society.

     A. experiential   B. referential   C. metalingual   D. Interpersonal

16. The study of the description and classification of speech sounds, words and connected speech belongs to the study of _____.

     A. phonology   B. phonetics   C. morphology   D. syntax

17. In _____ phonetics, we investigate the properties of the sound waves.

     A. articulatory   B. acoustic   C. auditory   D. sound

V. Analyze with your linguistic knowledge.

1. Look at the following two sentences and use them as examples to support the idea that language is not all arbitrary.

     a. They married and had a baby.

     b. They had a baby and married.

2. Examine the way the following words are separated. Comment the way of separation in relation to Bloomfield's idea that word is the minimal unit of meaning. (a · typical, success · ful · ly, organiz · ation, hard · ly, wind · y, word)

3. What is the difference between the following sentences in terms of attitude to grammar? What kind of linguistic concepts do they represent?

     ① Never put an "a" before an uncountable noun.

     ② People usually do not put an "a" before an uncountable noun.

VI. Words in Column A belongs to or have relations with different items in Column B, please put the correct numbers in Column A at the end of each item in Column B.

1.

A	B
Emotive function ( )	1) contact (of communication element)
Context (of communication element) ( )	2) imperatives and vocatives
Conative function ( )	3) metalingual function
Phatic function ( )	4) intonation showing anger
Message (of communication function) ( )	5) referential function
Code (of communication element) ( )	

2.

A	B
informative function ( )	1) We have 15 people here.
interpersonal function ( )	2) Pass me the salt please.
performative function ( )	3) *God*! ; *Damn it*!
emotive function ( )	4) *Dear sir* ; *Jonny*

3.

A	B
Phonology( )	1) morphology
Phonetics( )	2) phoneme
Morphology( )	3) entailment
Semantics( )	4) speech act
Syntax( )	5) synonymy
Pragmatics( )	6) word order in a sentence
	7) word formation
	8) conversational implicature
	9) speech organs
	10) sound wave

4.

Psycholinguistics ( )	1) language acquisition
Sociolinguistics( )	2) dialect
Anthropological linguistics ( )	3) corpus
Computational linguistics ( )	4) emergence of language
	5) language and cognition
	6) computer translating
	7) biological foundation of language
	8) the divergence of languages over thousands of years
	9) gender and language