

## **LINGUISTICS AND ITS SCOPE**

Linguistics is a systematic and scientific study of language. It is, however, not the study of any particular language. It studies human language as a universal and recognizable part of human behaviour. It aims at a methodical comprehension of the space of language in human life.

Linguistics attempts to explore three main aspects of language in its completeness: language form, language meaning, and language in context. It encompasses a vast area of study including phonetics (the study of how speech sounds are made), phonology (how these sounds are organized), morphology (how sounds are organized into meaningful units), syntax (how units of meaning come together to create sentences), semantics (the study of meanings themselves), pragmatics (the relationship between language signs and language users), and socio-linguistics (the interaction of language and people or collectives). Moreover, it studies the origin, organisation, nature and development of language descriptively, historically and comparatively to formulate and arrive at general rules. Historical or diachronic linguistics studies the development and evolution of language through history. Synchronic linguistics investigates how a speech community speak and use language at a given time. Comparative linguistics studies language by comparing languages.

Linguistics also includes new approaches to the study of other aspects of human language, such as social, cultural, historical and political factors. The study of cultural discourses and dialects is the domain of sociolinguistics, which looks at the relation between linguistic variation and social structures, as well as that of discourse analysis, which examines the structure of texts and conversations. Several specialized branches of linguistics have also developed with time. Important among them are Applied Linguistics, Neurolinguistics, Anthropological Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Computational Linguistics, Forensic Linguistics and so on.