

Psycholinguistics

- Psychology is the scientific study of human and animal behavior. psychology studies personality, by using observation, identification, classification, and description. It is about stating rules through hypothesis. If he....., he would do.....

Psychology studies cognition: cognitive structure of human being

Psychology studies perception: how individuals understand the world?

Psychology studies learning: what are the processes of learning? Why do people learn? What they learn? How do they learn? Where do they store knowledge? How do we get access to this knowledge?

Social psychology: is interested in the study of groups; in education, politics, meetings, and it is also concerned with management strategy.

Some basic Concepts:

Mind: is an element or process that is responsible for feeling, reasoning, willing, thinking, judging, communicating, perceiving, and conceiving. The mind is the totality of conscious and unconscious processes and activities that are mentioned earlier.

Intelligent: the ability to think and do things quickly by solving problems and finding result in less time , less energy, less effort, and in a correct way.

Process: is a series of interdependent and interrelated actions, functions, or procedures that would lead to a change or development. One cannot happen until the other has taken place. So, there is a start, middle, and an end.

Cognition: is a system of processes that is responsible for thinking, the ability of reasoning, and also for storing knowledge and information.

Processing: is giving meaning and moving from one action to another" inputs/ outputs"

❖ What is Psycholinguistics?

- Layman definition: study of relationship between language and mind.
- Psycholinguistics is the scientific study of the relationship between the language and the mind. It is a subfield of cognitive psychology. Its goal is to describe the processes of language acquisition, perception, mental lexicon, production, problems,

Psychological reality of linguistics structure "grammar":

For Chomsky= competence. In order to describe the competence of an ideal "native speaker" rules "syntax, semantics, and phonology" and this is a part of describing the cognitive system of the native speaker of any language.

Categories:

1. Language acquisition.
2. Language perception.
3. Language production.
4. Mental lexicon.
5. Language disorder.

We can develop these categories into:

- a) **Developmental psycholinguistics:** it studies language acquisition and language disorder
- b) **Experimental psycholinguistics:** it studies language production, mental lexicon, and language perception. In language perception, one can design and see the variables. Examples: 2 sentences mean the same thing but one of them contains different word, so the second will take its place to make it understood. Language design is more about observation.

Macro genesis and micro genesis of psycholinguistics:

- **Macro genesis psycholinguistics:**
 - **ontogenesis**" describe the individuals acquisition of language, from birth to death, in a specific time"
 - **Phylogenesis**" describe the development of language as human linguistics ability through history.
- **Micro genesis psycholinguistics:**
 - **The macro-chronic level:** it is basically referred to the linguistics product of speech sounds until utterance production" yes, yes..."
 - **The micro-chronic level:** basically, it is interested in the hierarchy of phases. Especially from the neurological point of view. One triggers another.

Macro= wide, higher level, and bigger.

Micro= small

Neurological study= how language created in our mind?

Why psycholinguistics has become a paradigm nowadays?

The aim of psycholinguistics is mental process. For economic and political reasons. In order to create a machine, not only to gain the ability to think like human but also to be creative like human.

The history of psycholinguistics:

Psycholinguistics is a new born, late 19th and 20th.



Language acquisition:

1. Nobody is born speaking.
2. Language is acquired

In order to discover how language is acquired, we need first to ask some sub-questions that will certainly lead us to answer the big question "how language is acquired."

- What do children hear?
- Do they understand and cannot react?
- How is language acquired?
- (Layman question) what are the major processes of acquisition, of a language?
- How does language represent in our minds?
- What is language processing?
- What are the major factors that influence the acquisition of language?
- What are those processes?
- How much time it takes?
- Can we classify them?
- Is language innate or acquired?

To answer these questions, we will rely upon 5 theories "3 main theories and 2 sub theories."

1. Behaviorism theory.
2. Nativist theory.
3. Neurological theory.
4. Cognitive theory.
5. Affective theory.

- 1) Behaviorism theory: this first theory is based on "Tabolaraza" and through reinforcement, in which they learnt language. Here language is a human behavior.
 - 2) Nativist theory by Chomsky: for Chomsky, it is not tabolaraza. He stated that children are born with language acquisition device (L.A.D). Children need to learn rules "generative rules" to create unlimited numbers of sentences. So, language for Chomsky is not innate. The (L.A.D) is the one that innate, in which it gives the children the ability to speak.
- Lenneberge said that language is an innate faculty. And he talked about biological conditions of language. To prove this: What language shared with other innate facilities? He stated innate behavior In general and set 6 criteria for innateness of behavior.
 1. Naturational behavior: it is developed deliberately and does not appear when it is needed. It means that it is controlled before it is needed.
 2. Innate behavior: it doesn't appear as a result of conscious decision.
 3. These Innate behaviors come from the inside system and does not appear due to an event from the outside.

4. Innate behaviors are relatively unaffected by direct teaching and intensive practice.
5. These innate faculties follow a regular sequence in their development.

They are classified by 7 stages:

- i. Pre-speech: typical age "from 0 to 6 month". Positive reaction to sounds after week 6.
- ii. Babbling stage: age (6-8 month). Children begin bubbling " Ba Ba Ba, MaMMa,....)
- iii. One word stage: age (9-18). Children say one word to describe one idea (Ma- laura).
Holophrastic stage: age (). One phrase word to describe one idea.
- iv. Two word stage: age (18-24). It is kind of Mimi "small sentences" with rules.
- v. Telegraphic stage or early multi word stage