

Notes on P&B Chapter 3 (Language)

Communication=Information Exchange Between Organisms

Non-Verbal Communication=

- A.) Facial Expression
- B.) Pupil Size & Bella Donna
- C.) Pheromones
- D.) Body Language
- E.) Personal Space & Tactility

"Framing"

Non-Human Animal "Closed" Call Systems

"Open" Communication System (elements + rules)=Language

Natural Languages

Laboratory Languages ("Yerkish")

Why Language? -to lie, politics

Language Characteristics=

- A.) Referencing or Displacement*
- B.) Arbitrariness*:

Charles Pierce (American):

- 1.) Signs (Semiology)
 - a.) Index
 - b.) Icon
 - c.) Symbol

C.) Productivity* (Bee Language)

How? Swiss Linguist Ferdinand de

Saussure (1915), 2 levels:

Language conveys meaning but is itself composed of elements that lack meaning; language/speech distinction; hence Naom

Chomsky's L.A.D.=hard wired

Phonetic/Phonemic (Phones/Phonemes)

- 1.) /tre/="tree"
- 2.) /dEt/="debt"

Not letters of Alphabet

- 3.) /pEt/="pet" & /dEt/=

minimal pairs

"Distinctive Features" in English="voicing" "stopping" & "aspiration", **not** tone (we use **pitch**)

"She went to class."

"She went to class?"

/p/=voiceless, bilabial stop

/d/=voiced consonants
/d/=voiced velar stop
/t/=alveolar stop; but **not**
glottal stop=/dek ki/
/till/=aspirated /t/
/still/=unaspirated /t/
/pit/=aspirated /p/
/spit/=unaspirated /p/

*all vowels are voiced in English=

unconscious rules

phonological conditioning & "accent"

1.) e.g., "rots of ruck" /l/ versus /r/ or /ng/

D.) Morphology & Lexicon

(all words)

/shooter/ versus /shootist/

1.) free /shoot/ versus bound

/ist/, /er/

2.) Some languages are characterized by "compounding", putting two or more roots together, like English /black/ + /bird/= "blackbird", because English is a Germanic language, and in German one could write a small pamphlet that was a single word, i.e., /Sontagnachmittagspaziergangmachensohuhe/= "Sontag[Sunday]nach[after]mittag[midday]spaziergan[pleasure walk=stroll]gmachen[make or do]sohuhe[shoes]"

2.) Complex Lexicon marks areas important to a culture, e.g., Eskimo & Snow, or USA & car terminology

3.) A "Jargon" as a "status marker"

E.) Syntax (Syntactical

Overgeneralization)

F.) Grammar* (total knowledge to speak a language)

F.) Semantics

1.) Semantic Domains e.g., (Livestock)

Ethnoscience or

Cognitive Anthropology

Classifications of Reality

Horse Cattle

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mare	cow
stallion	bull
gelding	steer
foal	calf
filly	heifer calf
colt	bull calf

Based on Distinctive Features:

Sex

Maturity

Neutered

versus the Shipibo classification of "Jaguar" (enter the ideology unannounced)

Ino (unmarked category, most important)=Yellow Jaguar

Huiso Ino=Black Jaguar

Chaho Ino=Mountain Lion

Jënën Ino=Water Jaguar (Giant Otter)

Nai Ino=Sky Jaguar

G.) Ontogeny-

by 1 yr. child learns words for objects, commands & emotions

Language Families (Historical

Linguistics)

a.) cognates & core vocabulary

b.) Lexicostatistics

c.) "Pidgins" & Creoles

Languages & Dialects

Standard American English (SAE)

versus Black English (Ebonics)

"Code-Switching" & "Spanglish"

"Voy a parquear mi coche brown allí", or "Tu sabes"="You know"

Linguistic Relativity: all dialects worth studying

linguistic relativity versus Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis (1929)

English=time as space, a "long time" a "short time"

English=units of time like other units, e.g., 4 days, 4 apples

Versus Navajo Space-Time

History as Space-Time Commutable Matrix

Social Linguistics=

Functional Multilingualism

1.) Northwest Amazon & Language Exogamy

2.) Island Caribs & Male

Jargon (+ Race & Language)

Polite/Formal Usage=Spanish

Female/Male Lexicon ("Charming", "lovely", "adorable")

Females Ask Questions (Interrogative) Men state Opinions (Declarative)

Male/Female Languages=

Japanese

Honorifics=Japanese

"what would teacher (you) like me to do next?"

Language Levels=Java , 4 levels

Name Taboo="Toenail of Sloth" for man, so when he dies can refer

to him