

Language & Communication



Kottak Ch. 5

Lederer's Crazy English

- Let's face it: English is a crazy language.
 - There is no egg in eggplant
 - No ham in hamburger
 - No apple nor pine in pineapple
- English muffins were not invented in England.
- French fries don't come from France.
- Sweetmeats are candies, while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

Fun fun fun!


- Quicksand can work slowly
- Boxing rings are square
- A guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.
- Why is it that writers write, but
 - fingers don't fing,
 - grocers don't groce
 - hammers don't ham?
- If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth?

More questions...

- If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
- In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?
- Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?
- Have noses that run and feet that smell? Park on driveways and drive on parkways?

Things that make you go Hmmm...

- How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?
- How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell another?
- When a house burns up, it burns down.
- You fill in a form by filling it out and an alarm clock goes off by going on.



Welcome to the lovely,
crazy, wonderful world of
linguistics

Language and Communication

□ Language

- Our primary means of communication
- Transmitted through learning – part of enculturation
- Based on arbitrary, learned associations between words and the things they stand for (symbolic)
- Only humans have the linguistic capacity to discuss the past and future, and to share their experiences with others
- Anthropologists study language in its social/cultural context

Language and Communication

- Nonverbal communication
 - Kinesics – study of communication through body movements, stances, gestures, and facial expressions
 - Gestures, facial expressions, and body stances are shaped by culture
 - Prevalence and meaning of body movements, facial expressions, and gestures vary cross-culturally
 - Body movements communicate social differences
 - EXAMPLES!

Language and Communication

□ Structure of language

- Descriptive linguistics – scientific study of a spoken language
 - Phonology – study of speech sounds; considers which sounds are present and significant in a given language
 - Morphology – study of the forms in which sounds combine to form morphemes (words and their meaningful parts)
 - Lexicon – a dictionary containing all of a language's morphemes and their meanings
 - Syntax – arrangement and order of words in phrases and sentences
 - How things make sense linguistically (the order)

Language and Communication

□ Sociolinguistics

- Sociolinguistics – relationships between social and linguistic variation
 - Ex: Y'all, Worsh, Heyyyyy, Bloody hell!
 - Motherspeak, teacherspeak, comfort levels!
- Linguistic diversity within nation-states
 - Ethnic diversity is mirrored by linguistic diversity
 - All people style shift – vary their speech in different social contexts
 - Diglossia – regular shifting between dialects (e.g., “high” and “low” variants of a language)

Language and Communication

□ Sociolinguistics

- Linguistic diversity within nation-states
 - Different dialects are equally effective as systems of communication
 - Particular dialects are not linguistically superior or inferior to others
 - Speech patterns are considered “better” or “worse” because they are associated with socially ranked groups
 - Think southern dialects
 - Heterosexual/homosexual speech
 - Ted Koppel and the “Best English”
 - Taboo words

Check it Out!

- www.alphadictionary.com/articles/yankeetest.html

Are you a Yankee or a Rebel?

- www.pbs.org/speak/seatosea/americanvarieties/map/map.html

Name that Dialect!