



Swamy Vivekananda Vidya Samsthe (R)

Kumadvathi College of Education, Shikaripura



SUBJECT

LANGUAGE ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (EPC – 01)

ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮಾತಿತ ಭಾಷೆ

Unit : 1

Language An Introduction

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What is Language?

The '**Language**' word derives from in Sanskrit word '**Bhasa**'. It means 'To flash'. Latin word '**Lingva**' – its means '**tongue, speech** language through lingua.

The system of **communication** in speech and writing that is used by people of a particular country.

The system on **sounds** and **writing** that human beings use to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings.

- **Language** is the normal way of **humans** communicate. Only humans use **language**, though other animals communicate through other **means**. Human **language** has grammar, a set of rules for connecting words together to make statements and questions.
- Language is a System of **arbitrary vocal symbols** used for human communication.
- It is system, including many different modules (**Phonology, Morphology, syntax & semantics**)
- The primary medium for all languages is **sound**: therefore, language is mainly **vocal**.

- **Communication** is the process of exchanging messages and creating meaning.
- language is a **symbol system**. It includes rules regarding the combination of sounds into meaning units, meaning units into words, **words into sentences**, along with the rules for using that language.
- Set of **symbols**, associated with meaning, with rules to manipulate them.
- Set of **rules** for generating and **understanding speech**

DEFINITIONS OF LANGUAGE

1. **Henry Sweet (ಹೆನ್ರಿ ಸ್ವೀಟ್)** :- “**Language** is the expression of ideas by **means** of speech-sounds combined into words”. ... In spoken **language**, this symbol set consists of noises resulting from movements of certain organs within the throat and mouth.

“ಪದಗಳ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿಚಾರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭಿವ್ಯಕ್ತಗೊಳಿಸುವುದೇ ಭಾಷೆ”

2. **Edward Sapir (ಎಡ್ವರ್ಡ್ ಸಫೀರ್)** :-” Language is a purely human and no instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols”

“ತಮ್ಮ ಭಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು, ಭಾವಾವೇಷಗಳನ್ನು, ಬಯಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವಪ್ರೇರಿತ ಧ್ವನಿ ಸಂಕೇತಗಳನ್ನು, ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಇನ್ನೊಬ್ಬರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸುವ ವಿಧಾನವೇ ಭಾಷೆ”ಎಂದಿದ್ದಾರೆ.

3. **Bloch and Trager (ಬ್ಲಾಕ್ & ಟ್ರೈಗರ್)** :- “A language is a system of **arbitrary vocal symbols** by means of which a social group cooperates.”

“ಒಂದು ಸಮಾಜದ ಜನರು ತಮ್ಮ ಭಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಆಲೋಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ವ್ಯವಹಾರಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಉಚ್ಚರಿತ ಯೋಗ್ಯವಾದ ಯಾದೃಚ್ಛಿಕ ಧ್ವನಿ ಸಂಕೇತಗಳನ್ನು ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸುವರೋ ಅದೇ ಭಾಷೆ”

4. **Whitney (ವಿಟ್ಟಿ)** :- “Language signifies rather certain instrumental where by men Consciously and with intension Represent their thought to the end for the sake of Communication”

“ಮನುಷ್ಯ ತನ್ನ ಆಲೋಚನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇತರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಪ್ರಜ್ಞಾಪೂರ್ವಕವಾಗಿ, ಉದ್ದೇಶಪೂರ್ವಕವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಸಾಧನವೇ ಭಾಷೆ”

CHARACTERISTICS OF LANGUAGE

1. Language is a Arbitrary. (ಭಾಷೆ ಯಾದೃಚ್ಛಿಕವಾದುದು)

Language is arbitrary in the sense that there is no characteristic relation between the **words** of a language and their **meanings** or the **ideas** conveyed by them.

The choice of a word selected to mean a particular thing or **idea** is purely **arbitrary** but once a word is selected for a particular referent, it comes to stay as such. It may be noted that had language not been arbitrary, there would have been only one language in the world.

2. Language is a Social: (ಭಾಷೆ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕವಾದುದು)

Language is a set of conventional communicative **signals** used by **humans** for communication in a **community**. Language in this sense is a possession of a **social group**, comprising an indispensable set of rules which permits its members to **relate to each other**, to interact with each other, to co-operate with each other; it is a social institution. Language exists in **society**; it is a means of nourishing and developing culture and establishing human relations.

3. Language is a Symbolic: (ಭಾಷೆ ಸಾಂಕೇತಿಕವಾದುದು)

Language consists of various sound symbols and their graphological counter parts that are employed to denote some objects, occurrences or meaning.

These symbols are arbitrarily chosen and conventionally accepted and employed. Words in a language are not mere signs or figures, but symbols of meaning. The intelligibility of a language depends on a correct interpretation of these symbols.

4. Language is a Systematic ((ಭಾಷೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಿತವಾದುದು))

Although language is symbolic, yet its symbols are arranged in a particular system. All languages have their system of arrangements. Every language is a system of systems.

All languages have **phonological** and **grammatical** systems, and within a system there are several sub-systems. For example, within the grammatical system we have **morphological** and **syntactic** systems, and within these two sub-systems we have systems such as those of plural, of **attitude**, of aspect, of **tense**, etc.

5. Language is a Vocal (ಭಾಷೆ ಸಾಂಕೇತಿಕವಾದುದು)

Language is primarily made up of vocal sounds only produced by a physiological articulators mechanism in the human body. In the beginning, it appeared as vocal sounds only.

Writing came much later, as an intelligent attempt to represent vocal sounds. Writing is only the graphic representation of the sounds of the language. So the linguists say that speech is primary.

6. Language is a Non-instinctive, Conventional:

No language was created in a day out of a mutually agreed upon formula by a group of humans. Language is the outcome of evolution and convention. Each generation transmits this convention on to the next.

Like all human institutions languages also change and die, grow and expand. Every language then is a convention in a community. It is non-instinctive because it is acquired by human beings. No body gets a language in heritage; he acquires it because he an innate ability.

7. Language is a Productive and Creative: (ಭಾಷೆ ಉತ್ಪಾದಕತ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಸೃಜನಶೀಲವಾದುದು)

Language has creativity and productivity. The structural elements of human language can be combined to produce new utterances, which neither the speaker nor his hearers may ever have made or heard before any, listener, yet which both sides understand without difficulty. Language changes according to the needs of society.

Finally, language has other characteristics such as **Duality** referring to the two systems of sound and meaning, *Displacement* which means the ability to talk across time and space, **Humanness** which means that animals cannot acquire it, **Universality** which refers to the equilibrium across humanity on linguistic grounds, **Competence and Performance** which means that language is innate and produced in society and furthermore, language is culturally transmitted. It is learnt by an individual from his elders, and is transmitted from one generation to another. Thus using J. Firth's term, language is a '*polysystematic*'. It is also open to be studied from multifaceted angles.