

INFORMATION DAY

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS & TRANSLATION
CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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Linguistics for a better tomorrow
語言學讓明天更美好

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Outline

- What is the study of linguistics?
- What do we do with language?
- Demonstration of linguistics applications
- Why do people want to study linguistics?
- Q&A

Why study linguistics at CityU HK?

Language is fun

I got my wife to help me put some posts in the ground for our new fence, I gave her the new hammer and I said, "When I nod my head, you hit it." I don't remember much after that.

CL

iFunny, accessed 18 October 2022, <<https://ifunny.co/picture/got-my-wife-to-help-me-put-some-posts-in-iV8pFRaf8>>.

1. In which battle did Napoleon die?
His last one
2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
At the bottom of the page
3. The Ravi River flows in which state?
Liquid state
4. What is the main reason for divorce?
MARRIAGE

F

A+ for creativity

BRIGHTSIDE.ME

18 Schoolkids Who Bring New Meaning to "Logic"

School students are special people. They can resolve the most unusual an...

Bright Side, *18 schoolkids who bring new meaning to "logic"*; accessed 18 October 2022, <<https://www.facebook.com/brightside/posts/5286215111507189/>>.

Ranked # 30 in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022: Linguistics!

- BA in Linguistics & Language Applications at
Dept. of Linguistics & Translation, CityUHK
<https://lt.cityu.edu.hk/>.
- Second in Hong Kong

What is Language 語言?

- A system of verbal signs – signifiers and signified (cf. Ferdinand de Saussure) plus grammar.
- The linguistic triad - world/s (世界) , thought (思維) , language (語言) .
- A communicative tool shared by the same speech community.
- Language is realized by human speech and writing, and perhaps in the near future also in the cyberworld and robots.

THE SPEECH CHAIN

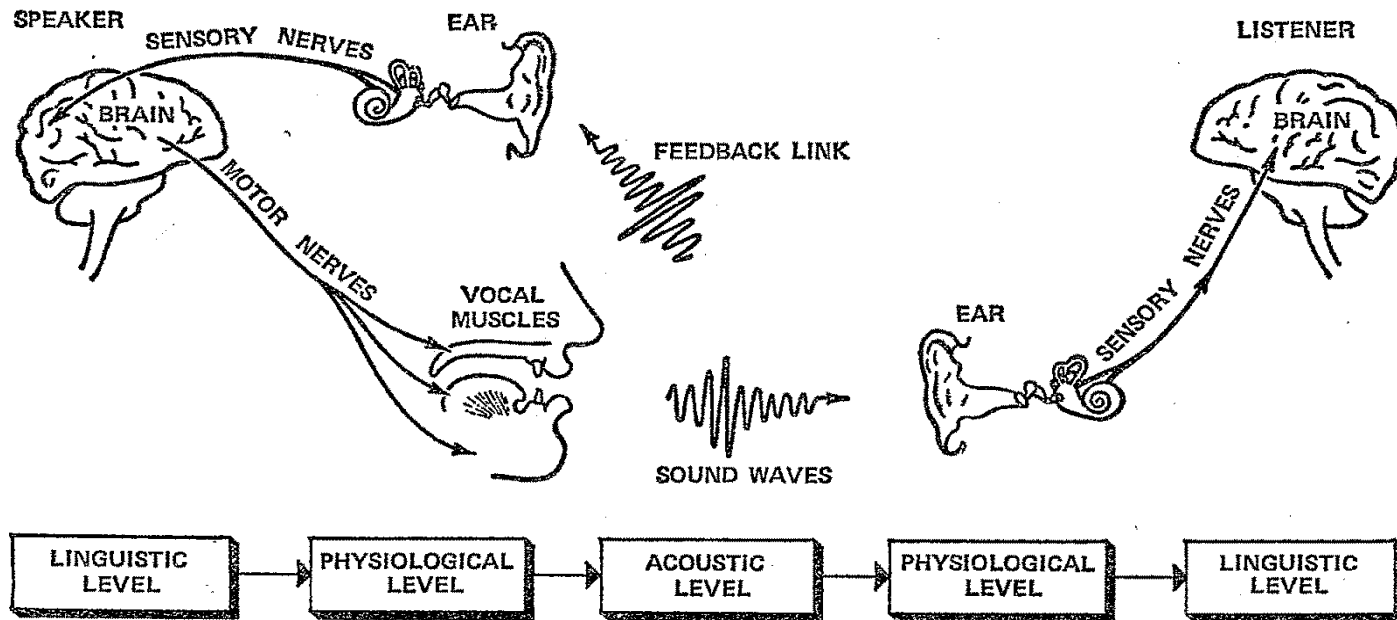


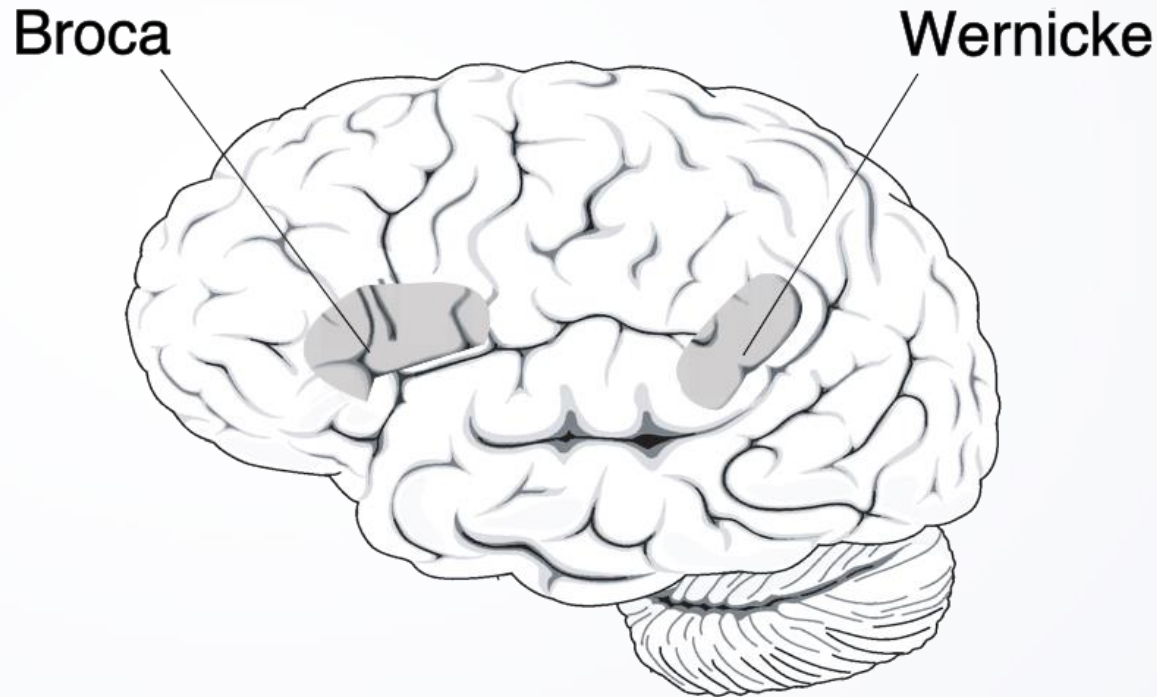
Fig. 1. The Speech Chain: the different forms in which a spoken message exists in its progress from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the listener.

Denes, P. B. & Pinson, E. N. *The speech chain: The physics and biology of spoken language*. Garden City, New York: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1973, 5.

What is linguistics?

- Linguistics is the scientific study of language 語言的科學.
- To study the language system, we have phonetics 語音學, phonology 音位學, morphology 構詞學, syntax 句法學, semantics 語意學, discourse analysis 篇章分析, pragmatics 語用學.
- To study language related issues, we have sociolinguistics 社會語言學, psycholinguistics 心理語言學, dialectology 方言學, historical linguistics 歷史語言學, stylistics 風格學, computational linguistics 計算語言學, neurolinguistics 神經語言學, cognitive linguistics 認知語言學, contrastive linguistics 對比語言學, NLP (natural language processing) 自然語言處理, etc.

Language Processing in the Brain



Front

Left Side View

Back

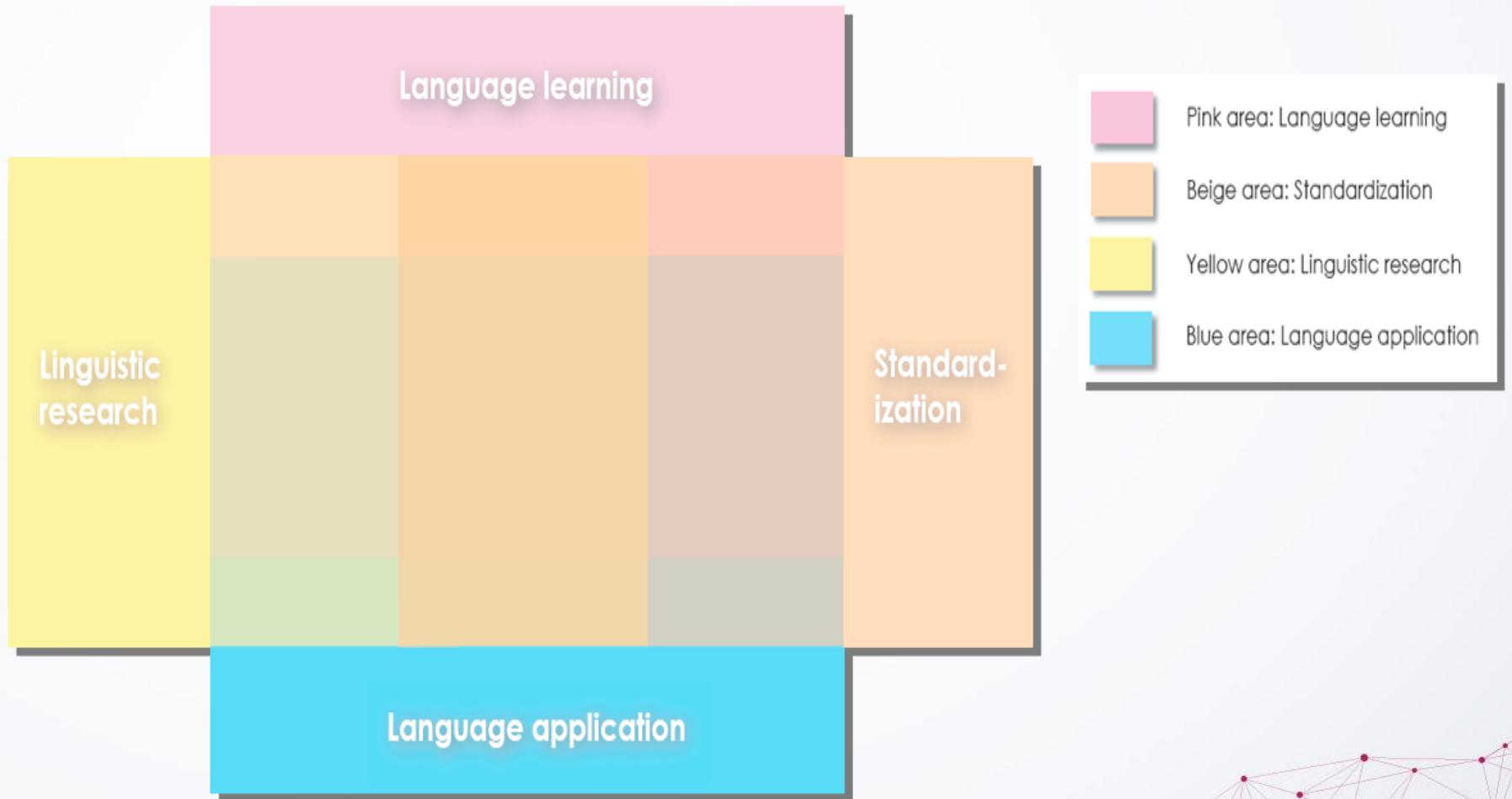
NIH publication No. 97-4257, accessed 18 October 2022, <<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/aphasia>>.

Tree Diagram of a Chinese Sentence



“我们在学习汉语”的树形图

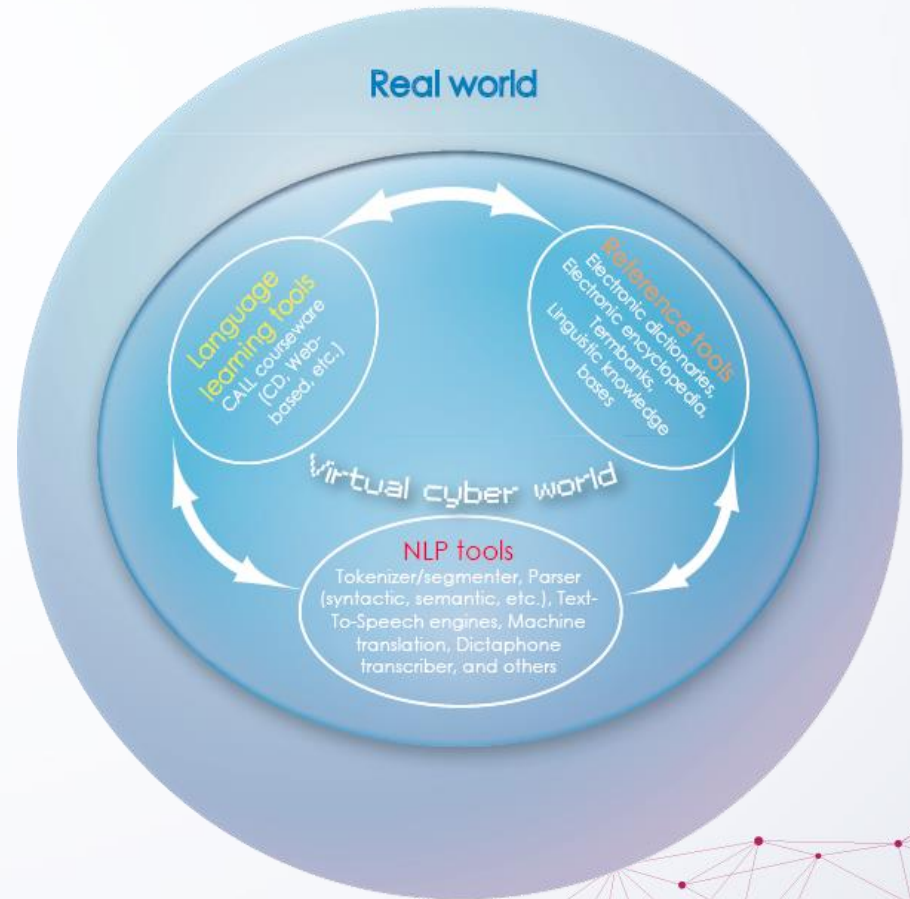
What do we do with language?



Linguistic Knowledge Bases and Natural Language Processing

(語言知識庫及自然語言處理)

- We need to understand human language before letting computers to apply it;
- We need to build language learning tools – e-dictionaries, e-encyclopedias; technical dictionaries; language rule bases; linguistic knowledge bases; cultural knowledge bases;
- We need to deepen the application of computational linguistics and NLP tools and increase human-machine interactivity.



Demonstration of linguistic applications

語言科技有限公司的漢語拼音標音系統：

<http://www.langcomp.com.hk/products/pinyinizer/index.htm>

British National Corpus 英國國家語料庫

<http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/>

香港小學學習字詞表網上版

<http://www.edbchinese.hk/lexlist/>

中國哲學書電子化計劃

<https://ctext.org/zh>

Youdao Dictionary 有道詞典

<http://dict.youdao.com/>

Degree Requirements	Credit Units
University Requirement:	
English	6
Chinese Civilisation - History and Philosophy	3
Gateway Education Requirement:	
GE courses	12
College specified courses	9
College Requirement	6
Department Foundation-year Courses	6
Sem A: LT1201 Introduction to Linguistics and Language Applications	
Sem B: LT2207 Introduction to Linguistics Research	
Core Courses	27
Core Elective Courses	3-9
Elective Courses	18-24
Minor	Optional
Free Electives	If applicable
Min. no. of credit units required for the award	120
Max. no. of credit units permitted	144

Why do people want to study linguistics?

1. We want to know the human nature better;
2. We want to understand the tool we use to describe the world, the tool to think and the tool to create new concepts;
3. We want to communicate more effectively, both ideationally and interpersonally (傳情達意) ;
4. We want to avoid confusion and social-cultural differences reflected in languages ;
5. We want to make better use of language in education and daily applications.
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4VILAGHVCS&t=266s> (David Crystal on Why study linguistics?)

Admission & Job Prospect

- Admission is major-based since 2022/23 entry. You get into LT LLA Major directly.
- Job prospect: language professional as teacher, editor, reporter, web master, PR officer, news anchorperson, technical writer, translator, secretary, speech therapist, programmer, research assistant, etc.

<https://www.admo.cityu.edu.hk/programme/JS1109>

- Many students went on to study for higher degrees.

Opportunities: Internship and Exchange Programs



Q & A Session

Thank you!

Welcome to LT, CityU in the future!