Introduction to applied linguistics

2018 Spring
Lecture 1
1. Introduction to Applied Linguistics (AL)

- What is Applied Linguistics?
- Brief history of the field
- Scope and coverage of AL
- Organizations and publications of AL
1.1 What is Applied Linguistics?
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**Theoretical linguistics** is the branch of linguistics that is most concerned with developing models of linguistic knowledge.

The fields that are generally considered the core of theoretical linguistics are, **phonology**, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics.
1.1 What is Applied Linguistics?

Applied linguistics is an umbrella term that covers a wide set of numerous areas of study connected by the focus on the language that is actually used.
1.1 What is Applied Linguistics?

**Applied linguistics** is an *interdisciplinary* field of study that *identifies, investigates, and offers solutions to language-related real-life problems.*

Some of the academic fields related to applied linguistics are *education, linguistics, psychology, anthropology, and sociology.*
1.1 What is Applied Linguistics?

1. Defining Applied Linguistics

**Macro-Applied Linguistics:** *The study of language and linguistics in relation to practical problems.*

**Micro-Applied Linguistics:** *The study of second and foreign language learning and teaching.*  
*(Jack Richards et al)*

2. Applied linguistics is an interdisciplinary science
1.1 What is Applied Linguistics?

Linguistics Disciplines
- phonology
- syntax
- semantics
- pragmatics, etc.

Linguistics-related Disciplines
- sociolinguistics
- psycholinguistics
- computational linguistics
- neurolinguistics
- etc.

Education-related Disciplines
- educational theories
- educational measurement
- educational technology
- etc.
1.1 What is AL?

‘A working definition of applied linguistics will then be the theoretical and empirical investigation of real-world problems in which language is a central issue’ (Brumfit 1997:93).
1.1 What is AL?

Theoretical Linguistics vs. Applied Linguistics

Applied Linguistics differs from Linguistics in general mainly with respect to its explicit orientation towards practical, everyday problems related to language and communication.

(http://www.aila.info/about.html)
1.1 What is AL?

Applied Linguistics is an interdisciplinary field of research and practice dealing with practical problems of language and communication that can be identified, analysed or solved:

- by applying available theories, methods and results of Linguistics or

- by developing new theoretical and methodological frameworks in Linguistics to work on these problems. (http://www.aila.info/about.html)
1.2 Brief History of AL


Charles Fries and Robert Lado
1.2 Brief History of AL

- 1957 School of Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh (I. Catford)
- 1964 AILA founded (First Congress - Nancy)
- 1967 Center for AL – USA (C. Ferguson)
- 1978 B. Spolsky – *Educational Linguistics*
- 1980 *Applied Linguistics* (journal)
1.3 Scope & Coverage of AL

The problems Applied Linguistics deals *with* range from aspects of the linguistic and communicative competence of the **INDIVIDUAL** such as

- first language acquisition
- second language acquisition,
- literacy,
- language disorders, etc.
1.3 Scope & Coverage of AL

The problems Applied Linguistics deals with:
- language and communication related problems in and between **SOCIETIES** such as e.g.
  - language variation
  - linguistic discrimination,
  - multilingualism,
  - language conflict,
  - language policy.
  - language planning.  (http://www.aila.info/about.html)
Some areas Applied Linguistics deals with:

- Adult Language Learning
- Child Language
- Communication in the Professions
- Contrastive Linguistics and Error Analysis
- Discourse Analysis
- Educational Technology and Learning
- Foreign language Teaching Methodology and Teacher education
- Forensic Linguistics
- Language and Ecology
1.3 Scope & Coverage of AL

Some areas Applied Linguistics deals with:

- Language and Gender
- Language Contact and Language Change
- **Learner Autonomy in Language Learning**
- Lexicography and Lexicology
- Mother Tongue Education
- Psycholinguistics
- Rhetoric and Stylistics
- Second Language Acquisition
- **Sign Language**
1.3 Scope & Coverage of AL

Some topics addressed by the AAAL:

- language and assessment
- language and the brain
- language and cognition
- language and culture
- language and ideology
- language and instruction
1.3 Scope & Coverage of AL

Some topics addressed by the AAAL:

- language and interaction
- language and listening
- language and media
- language and policy
- language and reading
- language and research methodology
- language and society
1.3 Scope & Coverage of AL

Some topics addressed by the AAAL:

- language and speaking
- language and technology
- language and translation/interpretation
- language and writing
1.4 Organizations of AL

- AAAL - American Association of Applied Linguistics
- AILA - Association de Linguistique Appliquée
- ALAA - Applied Linguistics Association of Australia
- BAAL - British Association of Applied Linguistics
1.4 Organizations of AL

- **IATEFL** - International Association for the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language
- **MANYE** – Magyar Alkalmazott Nyelvészek és Nyelvtanárok Egyesülete
- **TESOL** - Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages
AILA Review is a scholarly journal of AILA. Its first issue appeared in 1984, and from 1989, all Volumes are guest-edited and thematically oriented.

AILA Applied Linguistics Series (AALS) is a book series published under the editorial responsibility of AILA at John Benjamins, Amsterdam.
1.5 AL and TESOL Publications

- Applied Linguistics
- International Journal of Lexicography
- ELT Journal
- Studies in Second Language Acquisition
- Language in Society
- Annual Review of Applied Linguistics
- Alkalmazott Nyelvtudomány
1.6 References

2. Courses in Linguistics (BA I-II)

Two compulsory courses in linguistics:

- **Introduction to Linguistics** (seminar, 3rd semester)
  - Core linguistics disciplines
    - (morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics)

- **Introduction to Applied Linguistics** (lecture, 4th semester)
  - Linguistic disciplines that are applied or interdisciplinary in nature
Many interesting topics & interested people

Mission statement for the 2016 Annual Conference of the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL):

"The new millennium brought many trends and changes in applied linguistics, for example the increasing use of interdisciplinary approaches in the field, interest in corpus-based studies, the use of new media as data sources… At the same time, processes that have started in the old millennium are continuing to develop and influence the field, such as globalisation, migration and its implications on how languages are used. Looking at the past and present… will enable us to move confidently into the future, and to continue to make valuable contributions to society."
Interesting topics

Special Interest Groups of BAAL:

- Corpus Linguistics
- Health & Science Communication
- Intercultural Communication
- Language, Gender and Sexuality
- Language and New Media
- Language in Africa
- Language Learning & Teaching
- Linguistics and knowledge about language in education
- Testing, Evaluation and Assessment
- Vocabulary Studies
2.1 Areas that we will discuss

- Language acquisition (1st, 2nd)
- Psycholinguistics
- Neurolinguistics
- Writing systems, orthographies
- Typology
- Machine translation
- Discourse analysis
- Sociolinguistics
2.2 Typology

“How to classify languages?”

- Structural classification vs. genetic classification

- On the nature of language universals
2.3 Neurolinguistics

“Where/what is language in the brain?”

- How to investigate the brain?
- Location:
  - Language is usually lateralized in the left hemisphere.
  - Certain parts of the brain contribute more to language
- Clinical linguistics: aphasia, dyslexia
“What is the relationship between the human mind and language?”

Experimenting and formulating models for
- the functioning of memory,
- using words („the mental lexicon”),
- processing sentences, etc.
2.5 Language acquisition

- How do children acquire their native language(s) ("L1 acquisition")? Phonological, morphological, semantic and syntactic development.
- How do we learn a foreign language? Optimal age, differences and similarities between L1 and L2 acquisition (developmental patterns). Language teaching.
2.6 Sociolinguistics

“How language is influenced by social factors?”

- dialects
- slang,
- jargon, argot
- gender
- pidgin, creole, etc.
2.7 Writing systems

“How did writing evolve?”

+ some interesting facts about English writing
2.8 Discourse analysis

“How does language function in a wider context?”

- types of discourse
- the role of discourse markers (*well, so, etc.*)
- textual cohesion and coherence
His father, Nick Begich, won an election posthumously, only they didn’t know for sure that it was posthumous because his plane just disappeared. It still hasn't turned up. It’s why locators are now required in all US planes.
2.9 Machine translation

- History
- Methods, approaches
- Examples
2.10 List of topics & readings (also see the syllabus)

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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<th>READINGS*</th>
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<td>FIRST LANGUAGE ACQUISITION 1</td>
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<td>BRAIN AND LANGUAGE</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>04.25</td>
<td>MACHINE TRANSLATION</td>
<td>TÓTH Á.</td>
<td>Sections from Dorr et al. (1998) ** discourse.pdf <em>(full document)</em></td>
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Please also read the syllabus!

The lecture slides/handouts

(they will be published on our web pages before the exam)

Your notes
2.11 The exam

- The exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions (20 by each lecturer).

- Final-year students will have the opportunity to sit the exam in *their* exam period. The quantity of the material is *the same* (use the textbook + get the lecture slides for the last topics, too)

- Usually this exam is only available in the spring semester.
Wednesdays 14 – 14:50