



**NEERAJ®**

# M.E.G.-4

## Aspects of Language

Chapter Wise Reference Book  
Including Many Solved Sample Papers

*Based on*

# I.G.N.O.U.

**& Various Central, State & Other Open Universities**

*By: Dharamdeep*



**NEERAJ  
PUBLICATIONS**

*(Publishers of Educational Books)*

Retail Sales Office:

1507, First Floor, Nai Sarak, Delhi - 6 | Mob.: 8510009872, 8510009878

E-mail : [info@neerajbooks.com](mailto:info@neerajbooks.com) Website : [www.neerajbooks.com](http://www.neerajbooks.com)

**MRP ₹ 450/-**

Published by:



## NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS

(Publishers of Educational Books)

Retail Sales Office: 1507, First Floor, Nai Sarak, Delhi - 6 | Mob.: 8510009872, 8510009878

E-mail : [info@neerajbooks.com](mailto:info@neerajbooks.com) Website : [www.neerajbooks.com](http://www.neerajbooks.com)

© Copyright Reserved with the Publishers only.

**Reprint Edition with Updation of Sample Question Paper Only**

Typesetting by: Competent Computers, Printed at: Novelty Printing Press

### Disclaimer/T&C

1. For the best & up-to-date study & results, please prefer the recommended textbooks/study material only.
2. This book is just a Guide Book/Reference Book published by NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS based on the suggested syllabus by a particular Board/University.
3. These books are prepared by the author for the help, guidance and reference of the student to get an idea of how he/she can study easily in a short time duration. Content matter & Sample answers given in this Book may be Seen as the Guide/Reference Material only. Neither the publisher nor the author or seller will be responsible for any damage or loss due to any mistake, error or discrepancy as we do not claim the Accuracy of these Solutions/Answers. Any Omission or Error is highly regretted though every care has been taken while preparing, printing, composing and proofreading of these Books. As all the Composing, Printing, Publishing and Proof Reading, etc., are done by Human only and chances of Human Error could not be denied. Any mistake, error or discrepancy noted may be brought to the publishers notice which shall be taken care of in the next edition and thereafter as a good gesture by our company he/she would be provided the rectified Book free of cost. Please consult your Teacher/Tutor or refer to the prescribed & recommended study material of the university/board/institute/ Govt. of India Publication or notification if you have any doubts or confusions regarding any information, data, concept, results, etc. before you appear in the exam or Prepare your Assignments before submitting to the University/Board/Institute.
4. In case of any dispute whatsoever the maximum anybody can claim against NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS is just for the price of the Book.
5. The number of questions in NEERAJ study materials are indicative of general scope and design of the question paper.
6. Any type of ONLINE Sale/Resale of "NEERAJ BOOKS" published by "NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS" in Printed Book format (Hard Copy), Soft Copy, E-book on any Website, Web Portals, any Social Media Platforms – Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, LinkedIn etc. and also on any Online Shopping Sites, like – Amazon, Flipkart, eBay, Snapdeal, Meesho, Kindle, etc., is strictly not permitted without prior written permission from NEERAJ PUBLICATIONS. Any such online sale activity of any NEERAJ BOOK in Printed Book format (Hard Copy), Soft Copy, E-book format by an Individual, Company, Dealer, Bookseller, Book Trader or Distributor will be termed as ILLEGAL SALE of NEERAJ BOOKS and will invite legal action against the offenders.
7. The User agrees Not to reproduce, duplicate, copy, sell, resell or exploit for any commercial purposes, any portion of these Books without the written permission of the publisher. This book or part thereof cannot be translated or reproduced in any form (except for review or criticism) without the written permission of the publishers.
8. All material prewritten or custom written is intended for the sole purpose of research and exemplary purposes only. We encourage you to use our material as a research and study aid only. Plagiarism is a crime, and we condone such behaviour. Please use our material responsibly.
9. All matters, terms & disputes are subject to Delhi Jurisdiction only.

### Get books by Post & Pay Cash on Delivery :

If you want to Buy NEERAJ BOOKS by post then please order your complete requirement at our Website [www.neerajbooks.com](http://www.neerajbooks.com) where you can select your Required NEERAJ BOOKS after seeing the Details of the Course, Subject, Printed Price & the Cover-pages (Title) of NEERAJ BOOKS.

While placing your Order at our Website [www.neerajbooks.com](http://www.neerajbooks.com) You may also avail the “Special Discount Schemes” being offered at our Official website [www.neerajbooks.com](http://www.neerajbooks.com).

No need to pay in advance as you may pay “Cash on Delivery” (All The Payment including the Price of the Book & the Postal Charges, etc.) are to be Paid to the Delivery Person at the time when You take the Delivery of the Books & they shall Pass the Value of the Goods to us. We usually dispatch the books Nearly within 2-3 days after we receive your order and it takes Nearly 3-4 days in the postal service to reach your Destination (In total it take nearly 6-7 days).

## Content

# **ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE**

## *Question Bank – (Previous Year Solved Question Papers)*

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Question Paper—June-2023 (Solved) .....                  | 1   |
| Question Paper—December-2022 (Solved) .....              | 1   |
| Question Paper—Exam Held in March-2022 (Solved) .....    | 1-2 |
| Question Paper—Exam Held in August-2021 (Solved) .....   | 1   |
| Question Paper—Exam Held in February-2021 (Solved) ..... | 1   |
| Question Paper—December, 2019 (Solved) .....             | 1-2 |
| Question Paper—June, 2019 (Solved) .....                 | 1   |
| Question Paper—December, 2018 (Solved) .....             | 1   |
| Question Paper—June, 2018 (Solved) .....                 | 1   |
| Question Paper—December, 2017 (Solved) .....             | 1   |
| Question Paper—June, 2017 (Solved) .....                 | 1-2 |

---

| <i>S.No.</i>                             | <i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>                  | <i>Page</i> |
|--|--|-------------|
| <b>WHAT IS LANGUAGE?</b>                 |  |             |
| 1.                                       | The Nature of Language .....                       | 1           |
| 2.                                       | Looking at Data – 1 .....                          | 8           |
| 3.                                       | Looking at Data – 2 .....                          | 16          |
| 4.                                       | Language and Thought .....                         | 23          |
| <b>HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE</b>       |  |             |
| 5.                                       | History of English Language: An Introduction ..... | 29          |
| 6.                                       | Changes in Sounds and Spelling .....               | 46          |
| 7.                                       | Changes in Vocabulary .....                        | 54          |
| 8.                                       | Changes in Grammar .....                           | 64          |
| <b>ENGLISH PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY-I</b> |  |             |
| 9.                                       | The Speech Mechanism .....                         | 75          |

| <i>S.No.</i>                              | <i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>                                  | <i>Page</i> |
|---|--|-------------|
| 10.                                       | The Description and Classification of Consonants and Vowels .....  | 78          |
| 11.                                       | Phonetic Transcription and Phonology .....                         | 83          |
| 12.                                       | The Consonants of English .....                                    | 92          |
| <b>ENGLISH PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY-II</b> |  |             |
| 13.                                       | The Vowels of English (R.P.) .....                                 | 103         |
| 14.                                       | Word Accent, Stress and Rhythm in Connected Speech .....           | 112         |
| 15.                                       | Intonation .....   | 119         |
| <b>ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY</b>                 |  |             |
| 16.                                       | The Study of Words .....   | 123         |
| 17.                                       | Word-formation in English-1 .....                                  | 132         |
| 18.                                       | Word-formation in English-2 .....                                  | 137         |
| 19.                                       | Word-formation in English-3 .....                                  | 143         |
| <b>ENGLISH SYNTAX</b>                     |  |             |
| 20.                                       | Basic Notions of Syntactic Constituents and Phrase Structure ..... | 153         |
| 21.                                       | Types of Clauses and Sentences .....                               | 163         |
| 22.                                       | Grammatical Functions, Cases and Thematic Roles .....              | 167         |
| 23.                                       | The Syntax of Inflectional Elements: Tense and Agreement .....     | 171         |
| 24.                                       | Pronouns, Reflexives, and Other Bound Elements .....               | 173         |
| 25.                                       | Syntax of Scope: Adverbs, Quantifiers and Negation .....           | 177         |
| <b>LANGUAGE IN USE-1</b>                  |  |             |
| 26.                                       | Introduction to Sociolinguistics .....                             | 184         |
| 27.                                       | Speech Community and Multilingualism .....                         | 190         |
| 28.                                       | Bilingualism .....   | 194         |
| 29.                                       | Language Standardization .....                                     | 200         |

---

| <i>S.No.</i> | <i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|

---

**LANGUAGE IN USE-2**

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 30. | Multilingual Use of Codes .....                        | 204 |
| 31. | Language Planning .....                                | 210 |
| 32. | Conversational Analysis .....                          | 222 |
| 33. | Learner Factors in Second Language Acquisition-1 ..... | 227 |
| 34. | Learner Factors in Second Language Acquisition-2 ..... | 230 |

**THE SPREAD OF ENGLISH**

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 35. | Variation and Varieties .....                      | 235 |
| 36. | Consolidation and Standardization of English ..... | 243 |
| 37. | The Spread and Rise of Englishes .....             | 249 |
| 38. | Indian English .....                               | 260 |

**STYLISTICS**

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 39. | Language Variation: The Context of Situation .....                         | 267 |
| 40. | The Connection between Linguistics, Literary Criticism and Stylistics..... | 271 |
| 41. | Style and Content .....  | 274 |
| 42. | Analysing Texts-I .....  | 280 |
| 43. | Analysing Texts-II .....   | 299 |
| 44. | Analysing Texts-III .....  | 309 |



**Sample Preview  
of the  
Solved  
Sample Question  
Papers**

*Published by:*



**NEERAJ  
PUBLICATIONS**

[www.neerajbooks.com](http://www.neerajbooks.com)

# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

## ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE

M.E.G.-4

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer Question No. 1 which is compulsory and any other four questions from Q. Nos. 2 to 7. All questions carry equal marks.

**Q. 1. Write short notes on the following:**

**(a) Pidgins and Creoles**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-35, Page No. 239, 'Pidgins and Creoles'.

**(b) Difference between Monism and Dualism**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-41, Page No. 275, 'Comparing Monism and Dualism'.

**(c) The Co-operative Principle**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-32, Page No. 223, 'Co-operative Principle'.

**(d) The characteristics of Human Language**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 3, 'The Characteristics of Human Language'.

**(e) Define inflectional and synthetic language**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 64, 'Changes in Old English' and Page No. 69, Q. No. 1.

**Q. 2. Critically review the changes that have taken place in language planning from 1690's to 1990's and explain its importance in today's times.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-31, Page No. 213-214, 'History of Language Planning' and Page No. 220, Q. No. 2.

**Q. 3. What is the difference between generativists and the structuralists? In what ways have the generativists made advancements on the**

**structuralists?**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 20, Q. No. 1.

**Q. 4. What is the Binding Theory? Discuss (with examples) its principles with reference to anaphor, pronominal and other bound elements.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-24, Page No. 173, 'The Binding Theory', Page No. 174, 'Anaphors' and Page No. 175, 'Pronominal Binding and Other Bound Elements'.

**Q. 5. How do we classify morphemes in English? Explain with examples to draw the distinction between: (a) Free and bound and (b) Grammatical and lexical.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-32, Page No. 132, 'Introduction' and 'The Process of Word-Formation'.

**Q. 6. Describe the English vowels and explain how they are different from consonants.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 107, Q. No. 2.

**Q. 7. Explain the process of standardization with reference to the consequence of implementing this process.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-29, Page No. 200, 'The Process of Standardization' and Page No. 201, 'The Consequences of Standardization'.



# QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

## ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE

M.E.G.-4

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Answer Question No. 1 which is compulsory and any other four questions from Q. Nos. 2 to 7. All questions carry equal marks.

**Q. 1. Write short notes on the following:**

**(a) Post-independence Language Policy**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-38, Page No. 262, 'Post-Independence Language Policy'.

**(b) Phrase Structure Rules in Early Transformational Grammar**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 19, 'Transformational Generative Grammar 1957 Model'.

**(c) Variation Studies : New York City : William Labov**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-26, Page No. 188, 'Variation Studies'.

**(d) Degrees of Prominence**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-14, Page No. 113, 'Degree of Prominence'.

**Q. 2. Critically evaluate the role of English as a second language in the Indian context. Explain whether its extensive usage has led to negative attitudes towards Indian language or diminished the functionality of Indian language.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-38, Page No. 263, 'Cline of Bilingualism' and Page No. 266. Q. No. 3.

**Q. 3. Distinguish between Dialect and Idiolect, with suitable examples.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-39, Page No. 268, 'Dialect' and Chapter-35, Page No. 241, Q. No. 1.

**Q. 4. Explain the function of Intonation in English language.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 119, 'Introduction' and 'The Forms of Intonation'.

**Q. 5. What do you understand by the term "Conversational Analysis"? Why is it important for anyone to have this knowledge? What are the basic principles involved in it?**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-32, Page No. 222, 'Introduction' and 'The Structure of Conversation' and Page No. 223, 'The Cooperative Principle'.

**Q. 6. What are the factors which influenced English spelling through the ages? Explain it with suitable examples.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 51, Q. No. 3 and Q. No. 1.

**Q. 7. Explain the relationship between linguistics and literary criticism, with relevant examples.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-40, Page No. 271, 'Linguistics and Literary Criticism'.

5 5



# Sample Preview of The Chapter

*Published by:*



**NEERAJ  
PUBLICATIONS**

[www.neerajbooks.com](http://www.neerajbooks.com)

# ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE

## WHAT IS LANGUAGE?

### The Nature of Language



#### INTRODUCTION

What is Language? Before we try and understand the answer of this question, let us first understand that why this question is important. Charles F Hockett, an American linguist, declared language to be, “the most valuable single possession of the human race”. No doubt, that ability to use language is one basic distinction between human and other species of animal. The intensity and importance of language can alone be analysed by Humboldt’s statement—man is man through the use of language alone. Life must be extremely difficult, if not impossible, without the use of language, but it is so immersed in our lives that we do not care to think about it. We completely ignore the fact that language plays an extremely important role in the way the world exists today.

Let us try to go deep into the term language and see how it has been defined by various people in different ways.

#### CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

#### DEFINITION OF LANGUAGE

The word ‘language’ has been derived from the Latin word ‘*lingua*’ meaning tongue. The etymology of

the word suggests involvement of tongue. It is somewhat true but not completely. An intense study of language would say that is something more than just the use of tongue. Since language became the object of study by ancient grammarians, it has had many definitions. Let’s have a look on the various ways it has been defined.

“Language is that system by which sounds and meaning are related”.

(V. Fromkin and R. Rodman, *An Introduction to Language*, 1974)

“Language is the most sophisticated and versatile means available to human beings for the communication of meaning.”

(Brown, 1984)

“Language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols.”

(Sapir, 1921)

“Language is the institution whereby humans communicate and interact with each other by means of habitually used oral-auditory arbitrary symbols.”

(Hall, 1964)

“A language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which the members of society interact in terms of their total culture.”

(Trager, 1949)

“Language is a patterned system of arbitrary sound signals, characterised by structure dependence,

2 / NEERAJ : ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE

creativity, displacement, duality, and cultural transmission.” (Aitchison, 1987)

“Language is a system of sounds, words, patterns, etc. used by humans to communicate thoughts and feelings.” (Oxford Advance Learners’ Dictionary, 1989)

With all the definitions mentioned above, one thing is clear that language is a medium for expression of feelings, thoughts, desire, emotion, etc. or in other words a system for encoding and decoding information. Now it becomes important for us to know that how and why language originated. It would be interesting to know that there are various different theories that try to explain the origination of language. Let us have a look at some of those.

**HOW AND WHY DID LANGUAGE ORIGINATE?**

In linguistics, the origin of language is known as glottogony; a technical term derived from the Greek roots of the same word. It refers to the ‘genesis of language’ or better put it as the ‘evolution of language’. So when did the language begin? It is an intriguing question and we may not find a completely satisfying answer to this question. There are many theories that try to explain the origin of language and some of those have traditional amusing names.

**The Divine Source Theory:** According to this theory the language has been provided to humans by a divine source. As there are different religions the divine source varies across the world. According to Christian belief, God after creating the world created Adam and “whatsoever Adam called every living creature that was the name thereof” (Genesis, 2:19). According to Hindu mythology the language came from goddess Saraswati, wife of Brahma, creator of universe. For Egyptians it came from Thoth, for Babylonians the source was Nabu, and for Muslims it was Allah. The tower of Babel story says: “Because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth (Genesis II: 9). It is an interesting fact that almost every religion in the world has a story to say about the origin of language. Some experiments were also done to justify the existence of this theory, but these attempts proved to be futile.

**The Natural Sound Source Theory:** This theory believes that the human language evolved from the natural sound we hear or make. There are further divisions in this theory as natural sounds are infinite in

numbers. Thus the two famous theories are “bow-wow theory” and “yo-heave-ho” theory.

**“Bow-Wow” Theory:** This theory suggests the formation of words by imitating (echoing) natural sounds – also known as onomatopoeia – like bow wow, cawcaw, cuckoo, buzz, hiss, rattle, screech, etc. But it failed to give a logical explanation about the origin of the names of soundless objects – wood, stone – abstract ideas – truth, happiness, after all language is not simply a set of words used to identify an object or a thing, it is more complicated than that. Another argument against this theory says that language also impacts the way we hear and imitate natural sounds, for example, in English a rooster crows ‘cock-a-doodle-doo’; in Hindi ‘kuk-ru-ka-roo’ and in German ‘kikeriki’.

**“Yo-Heave-Ho” Theory:** According to this theory the language evolved from the sounds made by person involved in physical efforts – grunts, groan, and swear words – indicating that language developed in social context. But again it fails to explain the various other aspects of language development. Apes have grunts and social call, but they did not develop the capacity to speech.

**The Pooh-Pooh Theory:** The English naturalist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) believed that human language developed from instinctive cries that human made to express emotions, such as fear, anger, pleasure, and pain. In 1871, in his book ‘*Descent of Man*’, Darwin first suggested this idea. According to him like human himself, his language evolved from the expression of emotion. For example, a feeling of contempt is expressed by puffing of air out through the nostrils or the mouth and the results are the sounds like “pooh” or “pish”. The critics of Darwin, with disgust, called this theory – the Pooh- pooh theory.

**The Ding-Dong Theory:** It was the famous linguist Max Muller, a contemporary of Darwin, who proposed the ding-dong theory. According to Muller there is a mysterious correspondence between sounds and meanings. Small, sharp, high things tend to have words with high front vowels in many languages, while big, round, low things tend to have round back vowels! This is often referred to as sound symbolism. According to him, the primitive elements of language were but reflex expression of human being induced by sensory impression. The most primitive words would therefore be phonetic types rung out from the organism of the first man or men when struck with an idea.

So, it might be clear now that it is impossible to trace the origin of language. Another issue that intriguing in nature is how often language was invented. Perhaps it was invented once, by our earliest ancestors — perhaps the first who had whatever genetic and physiological properties needed to make complex sounds and organise them into strings. This is called **monogenesis**. Or perhaps it was invented many times — **polygenesis** — by many people. We can try to reconstruct earlier forms of language, but we can only go so far before cycles of change obliterate any possibility of reconstruction. Many say we can only go back perhaps 10,000 years before the trail goes cold. So, perhaps we will simply never know. But we can always guess the reason for its invention. The language must have evolved due to following reasons:

- (a) For passing through factual information and command, or in other words, information talking.
- (b) For expression of thoughts, emotions and feelings.
- (c) For maintaining social circle on friendly level, also called as 'phatic' communication.
- (d) For aesthetic purpose like poetry.
- (e) For psychological reasons like relieving nervous tension.

To understand language better, let us have a look on its different characteristics.

### **THE CHARACTERISTICS OF HUMAN LANGUAGE**

It might be difficult to decide what we want to put in the category of language. For example, can we say that an angry barking dog has language? Or when a trained ape tries to imitate signs from human sign language, do we call that language? The communication of dog and ape may have some, but not all, of the characteristics of human language. Let's try and compare human language with animals and find out some interesting similarities and dissimilarities between the two.

**Use of Sound Signals:** The most obvious characteristic of human language is the use of sounds. But this obvious characteristic is not unique to human being and neither it is very important in human language. It is not unique because it is not only human, but most of the species of animal use sounds as means of communication. And it is not important because there are other means of communication available to human beings, which do not require use of sounds signal, like

use of visual signs as in case of sign language or in case of writing, use of tactile symbols as used in Braille. So this characteristic is not very helpful in the making of human language or to say not very human in nature, as far as language is concerned.

**Arbitrariness:** A less definable characteristic of human language is its arbitrariness, which takes several forms. There is no necessary connection between the object and the word that represents it. A rose could be called a *sorp* and smell as *sweet*. Different languages indeed call the same object by different names. English rose may indeed be rose in French, but it is *bara* in Japanese and *warda* in Arabic. The connection between objects and words is largely arbitrary. If looked closely, it is not difficult to find that human language is also arbitrary in that, it depends on small set of sounds that do not have meaning in them. The sounds /b/, /a/ and /g/ do not have any meaning separately; the question that what does the /a/ means cannot be answered by explaining what /a/ is. It produces some meaning only when it is combined with the other sounds of English to get /bag/ (bag) or /gab/ (gab). A sound alone has no meaning, but when it combines with other sounds to form a word, it makes sense and has a meaning.

Human languages have the set of words which are open-ended, formed from a strictly limited set of components, whether phonemes, gestures, or letters. The fact that these symbols are themselves meaningless and arbitrary allows them to generate a vast stock of words. Though Roman alphabet vary slightly from one language to another, their 26 letters can encode, not only all the words in the Oxford English Dictionary, say, but all the words in the dictionaries of French, Italian, Malaysian, etc., as well, with a handful of additional symbols. Arbitrariness of the actual phonemes or letters is a highly useful characteristic that gives language its infinite flexibility, unlike the total rigidity of animal systems.

In case of animals the case does not appear to be the same. There seems to be apparently clear relation between the signs used and the message an animal wishes to convey. Animal language in a sense have limited list of words, like those Konrad Lorenz found in crows. In animal communication, a 'word' is an entity of its own. Each of the monkeys' cries has a distinctive meaning, same in the case of 'snake', 'eagle' and so on. They cannot be further divided into small set of meaningless components like phonemes. Animals seem to have a dictionary consisting of a limited number of

4 / NEERAJ : ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE

signs. It is interesting to know that in case of animals, language appears to be genetically inbuilt and the possibility of learning a language is minimised. As in case of bees – bee-dancing is used by the bee colonies across the world to provide the information about the source of nectar. And we do understand that there is no means that the bees across the globe would pass on the information about bee-dancing to each other, we must agree that they are born with this.

Learning, however, plays an important role in human language. A child brought up in isolation might not be able to acquire any language and thus would not be able to speak sense. Human beings need enough exposure to language in order to learn it, in other words human language is conditioned by environment. The statement is right, but not completely right. One of the pioneers in the field of psycholinguistics, Noam Chomsky says that certain aspects of linguistic knowledge and ability are the product of a universally innate ability or “language acquisition device” (LAD) that enables each normal child to construct a systematic grammar and generate phrases. This theory makes an interesting claim to account for the fact that children acquire language skills more rapidly than other skills, usually mastering most of the rules by the age of four. Here one thing is worth noticing that a child born in India would not master the rules of French by the age of four, until he is in a society where people prefer to speak French. This further suggests that environment play noticeable role in shaping and molding the innate ability what Chomsky says as ‘LAD’.

**Displacement:** Displacement is a unique characteristic of human language that discriminates it from animal’s way of communication. Displacement simply refers to the ability to communicate about what is not present. As human language is capable of displacement, man is able to transmit thoughts about things that cannot be directly perceived. It is true that bees can refer to the presence of pollen at a distance and sometimes even around barriers such as mountains. However, the dance of the honey, bee tells the onlooker bees exactly how to travel to reach the pollen source. We can call this procedural displacement, but not referential displacement. Human language uses referential displacement. First, we are able to refer to objects that are not physically present. We can talk about “the camp stove” even when that camp stove is in a camp that is on the other side of the hill. Second, we

can locate objects in positions that we cannot see. We can talk about “the pot on top of the camp stove” which then locates the pot by referring to a position that is determined with reference to an object that we cannot see. Third, we can refer to events that are not currently happening. So we can say that “The water in the pot on top of the camp stove boiled over” and just be referring to something we saw several hours ago. Or we can refer to events that might happen in some possible world of the future when we say “The water in the pot on top of the camp stove might boil over, if we turn up the gas too high.” The honeybee, however, cannot speak about where the best source of pollen was a week ago or where it might be tomorrow.

**Creativity:** Creativity of human language is again a distinguishing factor from animals. Scientific researches on animals have proved that most of the animals are not able to speak something new. A North American cicada can only pass on four messages and a male grasshopper can pass only six. The same goes for the dolphins, bird and other animals. Human, however, are able to speak whatever they want. There is not any limitation. Human can utter those sounds and words that they have never heard, or perhaps will never hear. Thus we see that creativity has got an important role to play in human language.

**Duality or Double Articulation:** Double articulation is a fascinating linguistic phenomenon, as it describes that how language has ability to describe anything and everything in world. Duality or double articulation refers to the way in which a stream of language can be divided into units that have meaning in themselves, which further can be divided into meaningless sound units. According to linguist André Martinet, language can be broken down in smaller units in two levels:

First, a sentence can be broken down into minimal meaningful units called morphemes. Minimal meaningful units are usually words, or parts of words. For example, ‘worker’ contains two morphemes: ‘work’ and ‘-er’.

Second, a morpheme can be further divided in minimal phonological units, which have no meaning. Minimal phonological units are called phonemes, and they often correspond to letters in English, but not always. The morpheme ‘letter’ contains 6 letters and only 4 phonemes, because ‘tt’ is pronounced as one t