

Linguistics Course

By; Dr. Aras A. Amin

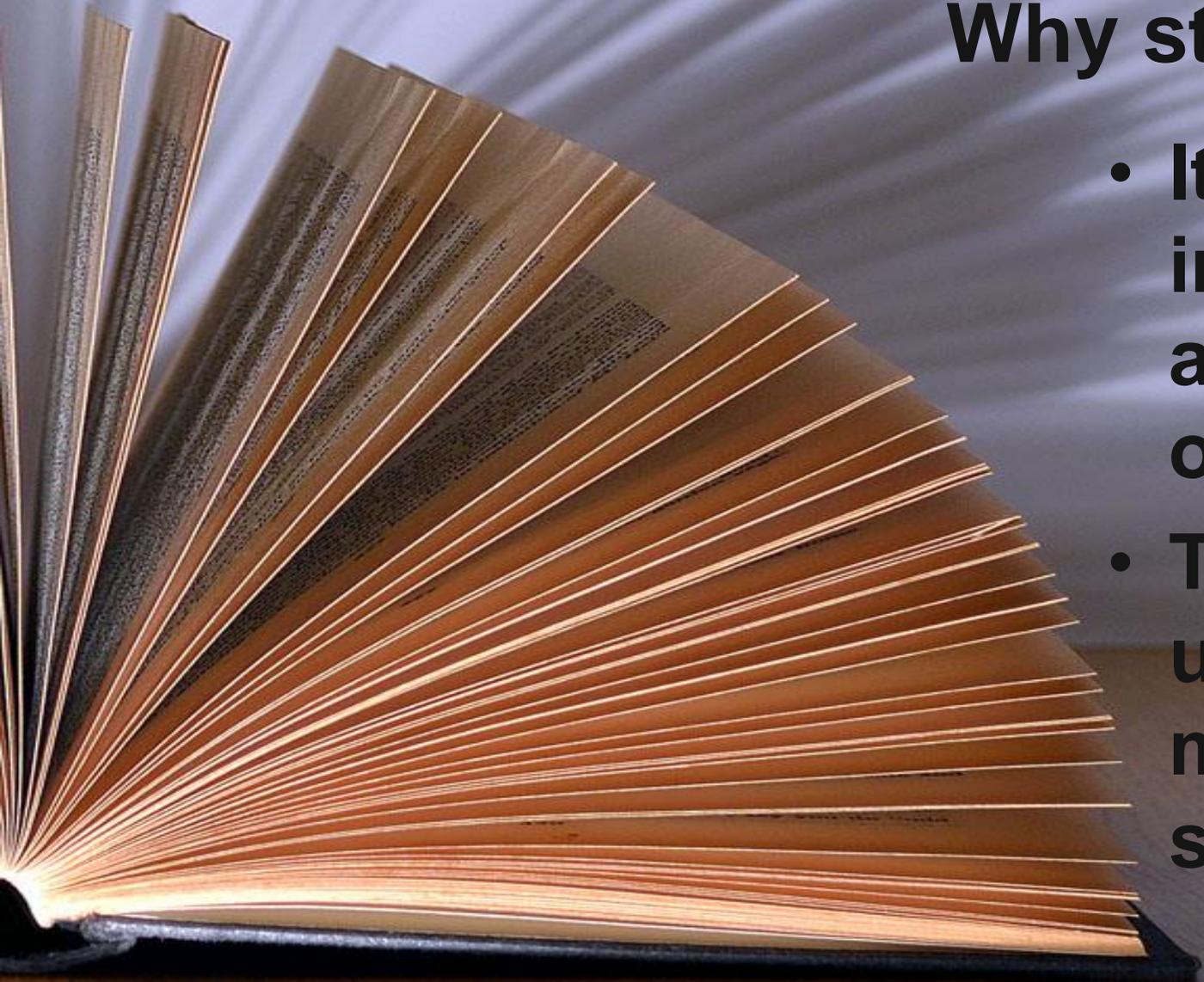
PhD. in Applied Linguistics/ELT

Why study language?

- Five significant, major, critical, crucial, vital, pivotal, main, prime, influential, fundamental, valuable, prominent, noteworthy, notable, great points why we study language.

1. Language can be regarded as a mirror of mind. Why study language?

- **It reflects human intellectual capacities and the natural creativity of its speakers.**
- **The linguistic structures used to describe the mental state of a speaker.**



2. Language can be viewed as a bonding device and a mirror of society.

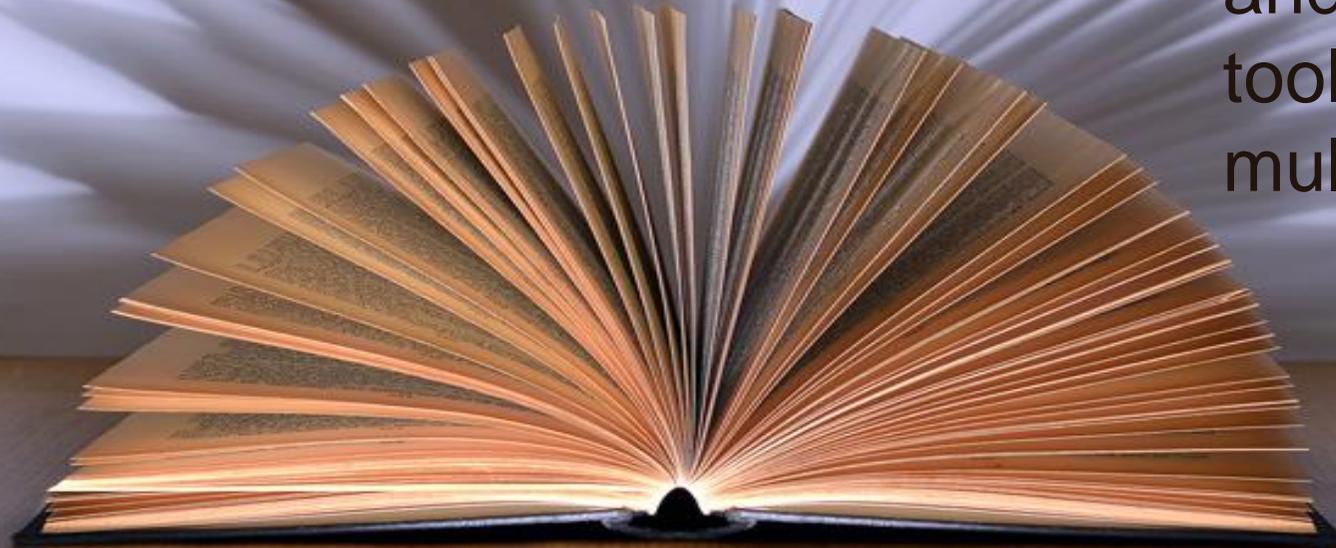
- It is a lens to see and understand the world.
- It can be seen as reflecting the miscellaneous nature of a society.
- It provides invaluable windows into a speech community's values and attitudes.



3. Language is a coherent system of communication within a community, expressing thoughts, emotions, feelings, and desires.

- It is a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationships with other people.

- Hence, it is essential for building a nation and serving as a tool of unity in a multicultural society



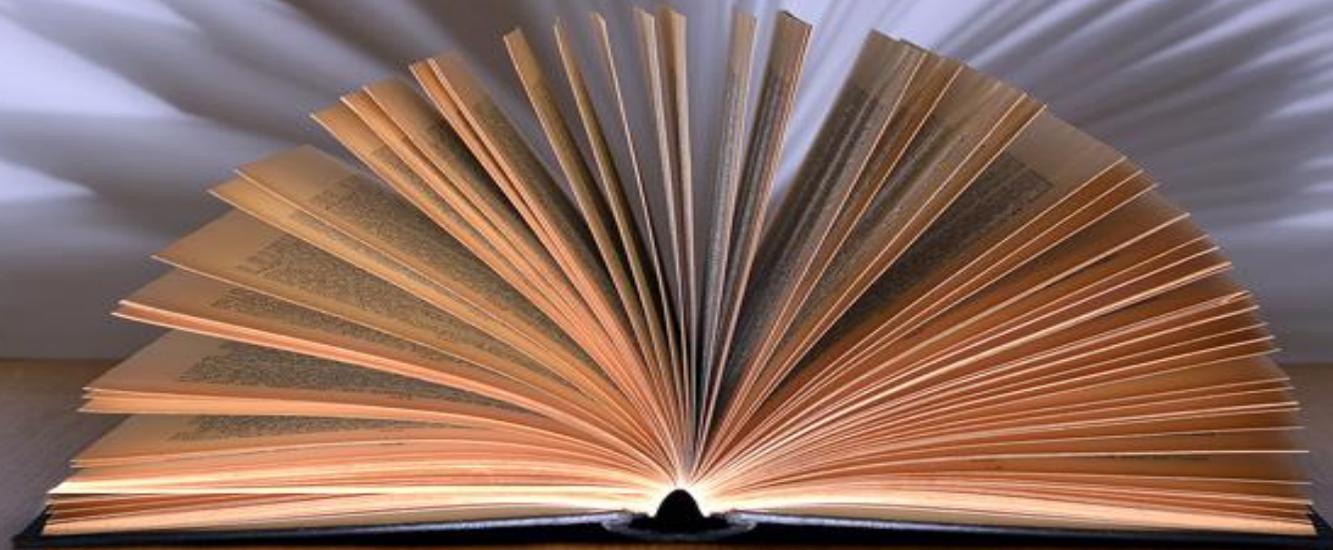
4. Language can be used both to convey information and express attitudes.

Declarative sentences,

to give information

Exclamative sentences

are used to express emotions





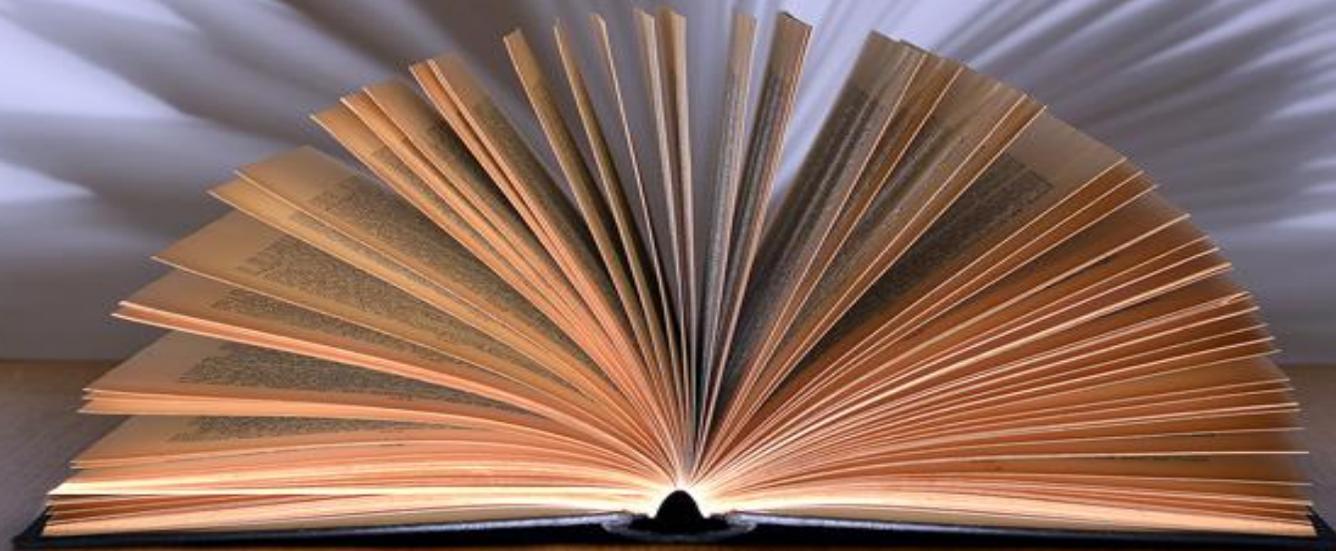
5. Language can be used not just to solicit information, but also to call for action.

- Interrogative sentences are used to seek information. In using such sentences, the speaker asks the listener to give information about something.
- Imperative sentences are used to give orders. In using such sentences, the speaker gets the listener to do something.

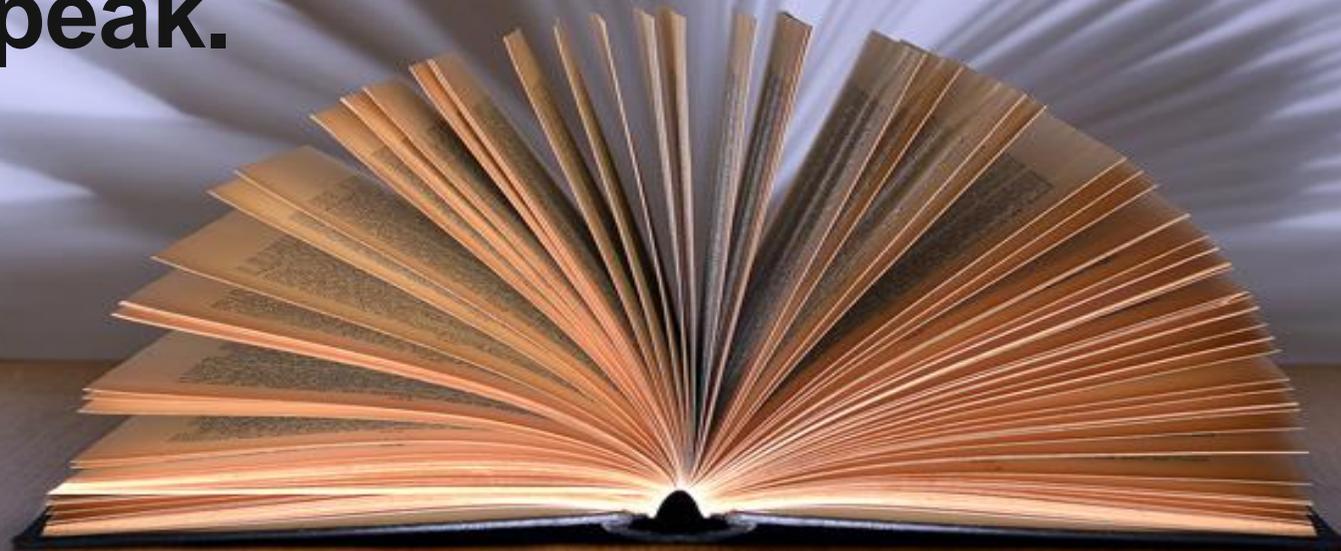
Modes

Language appears in three forms: writing, speaking, and sign. Sign language lies outside the scope of the present course.

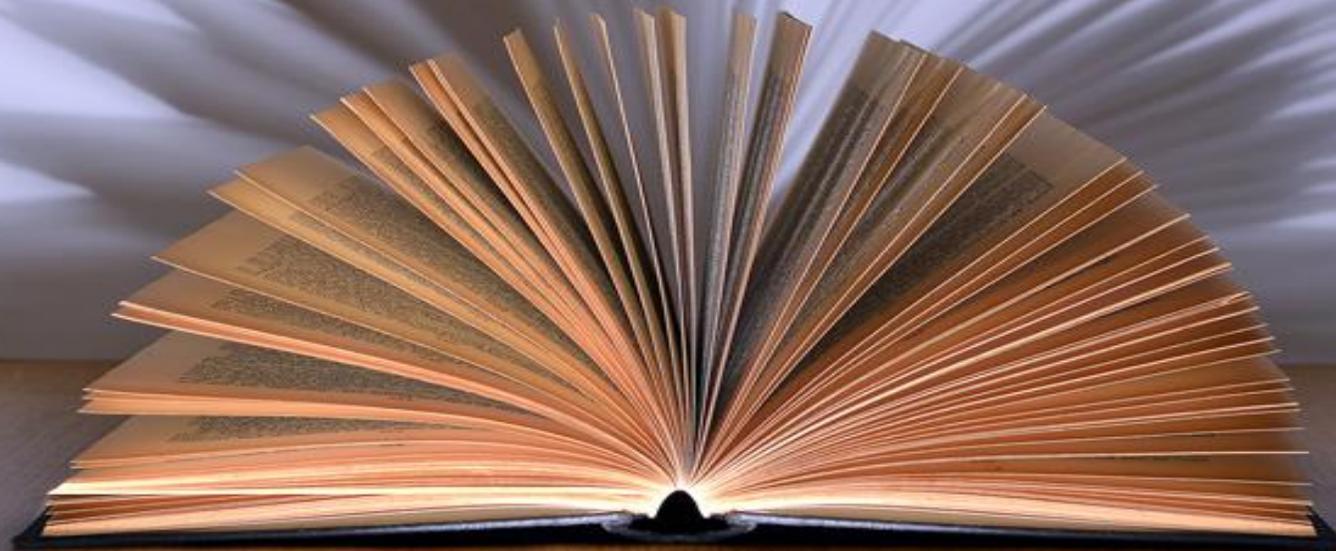
Writing and speaking are related but obviously different:



1. Writing requires systematic instruction and practice. So, not everyone is able to write. Speech is acquired without systematic instruction; in normal circumstances, everybody acquires it. People start speaking during their first two years of life. Learning to write draws on a person's existing ability to speak.

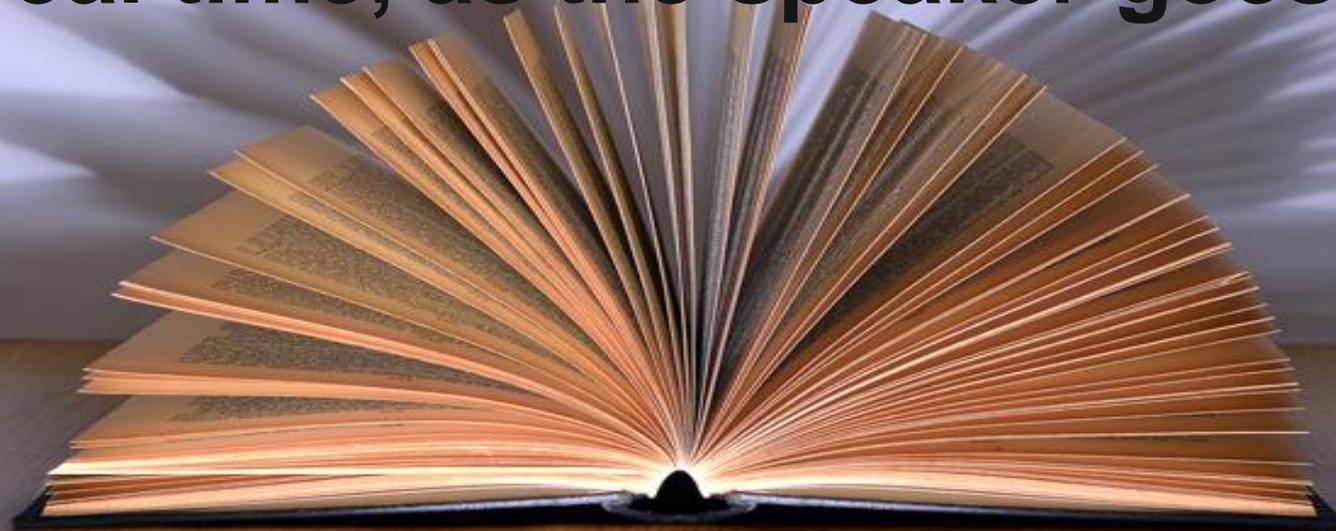


2. Writing consists of structures more complex than those of speaking. Thus, we often assume that written language is more difficult to learn. Speaking consists of simpler structures. It involves the use of voice (pitch, rhythm, stress, intonation) and gestures to express meaning.



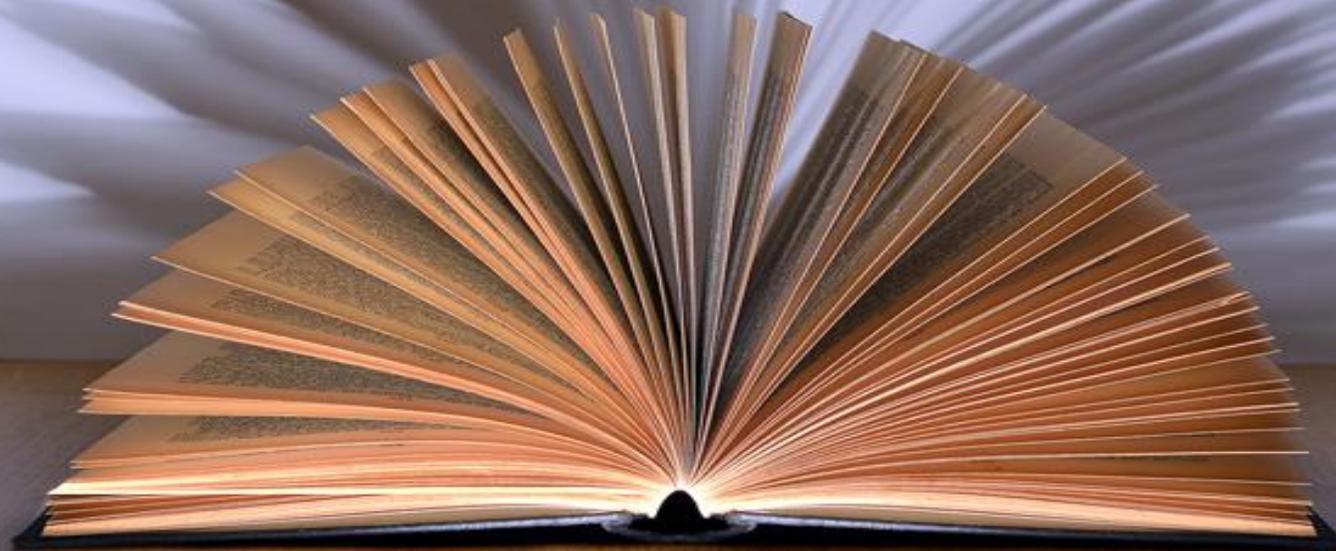
3. Writing changes more slowly than speech over the years. That is it is a more stable form. Writing takes longer to produce, speech is more transient and fluctuating, undergoing constant change.

Speech is produced in real time and can be edited in real time, as the speaker goes along.



4. Writing is often planned, and there is no immediate reaction from readers. Speaking is often spontaneous, and there is immediate reaction from listeners.

Speech is usually a dynamic interaction between two or more people, and is more prevalent than writing.



5. Writing has a standard form, a non-regional form of language used nation-wide. Speech has dialectal variation which represents geographical areas and social groups. Writing tends to be associated with formal style, whereas speech tends to a casual style.

