



BASICS OF LANGUAGE SCIENCE

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INTENDED AUDIENCE : MA, BA, and Research Scholars in the area of language, linguistics, and language teaching

INDUSTRIES SUPPORT : Any company, institute, or organization dealing with language and/or artificial intelligence will value this course.

COURSE OUTLINE :

Language is an integral part of our identity in the sense that it defines our being. This course offers answers to most of the curiosities that comes to our mind when we think about how we acquired the capacity of language as a child. This course leads us into understanding the relationship between language, our mind, and the society that we live in. This course helps us deal with the three major aspects of language namely, structure at the level of sounds, words, and sentences, acquisition or learning of it, and the variations within and among languages.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Rajesh Kumar is a professor of linguistics in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai. He obtained his PhD in linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prior to joining IIT Madras, he taught at IIT Kanpur and IIT Patna in India and at the University of Texas at Austin in the USA. He has been a visiting faculty at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai in India. His book on Syntax of Negation and Licensing of Negative Polarity Items was published by Routledge in their prestigious series Outstanding Dissertations in Linguistics in 2006. He has been associate editor of the journal Language and Language Teaching. He has been part of the language teaching program at all the institutions he has been affiliated with. The broad goal of his research is uncovering regularities underlying both the structural form (what language is) and sociolinguistic functions (what language does) of natural language. He works on structure of South Asian Languages. He is keenly interested in issues related to language (multilingualism) in education; politics; human cognition; and landscape.

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COURSE PLAN :

Lecture 1 - Introduction of the Course

Lecture 2 - What is linguistics? What is language? How do we study language?

Lecture 3 - Language and arbitrariness, and language and dialect

Lecture 4 - E vs I language, Language as a rule-governed system

Lecture 5 - Language faculty, Language in human mind

Lecture 6 - How do we learn language?

Lecture 7 - Language acquisition

Lecture 8 - Innateness: Some essential concepts

Lecture 9 - Structure of language at the level of sounds

Lecture 10 - Sounds (vocal apparatus)

Lecture 11 - Places and manners of articulation

Lecture 12 - Word formation / phonotactic rules

Lecture 13 - Rules of word formation (singular – plural)

Lecture 14 - Sentence: An introduction

Lecture 15 - Making of a sentence (components)

Lecture 16 - Grammaticality and acceptability

Lecture 17 - Subject and verb in a sentence

Lecture 18 - Sentence: Objects and verbs

Lecture 19 - Phrase structure

Lecture 20 - X-bar theory

Lecture 21 - Specifier and complement

Lecture 22 - Compliments and adjuncts

Lecture 23 - VP components

Lecture 24 - Category selections, Selectional restrictions on verbs

Lecture 25 - Thematic relations

Lecture 26 - Case

Lecture 27 - Morphological and abstract case

Lecture 28 - Structural case

Lecture 29 - Exceptional Case Marking

Lecture 30 - Movement

Lecture 31 - Motivations for movement

Lecture 32 - Questions and movement

Lecture 33 - Passives and NP movement

Lecture 34 - Movement and raising

Lecture 35 - Binding theory and NP interpretations

Lecture 36 - Principles of binding theory

Lecture 37 - Constraints on movements

Lecture 38 - Structure of language and negation

Lecture 39 - Negation and negative polarity items

Lecture 40 - Structure, language, cognition and pragmatics

Lecture 41 - History of generative paradigm in the study of language

Lecture 42 - Language in society, education, and culture