


WHAT IS LANGUAGE ?

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- \* **LINGUISTICS** can be defined as the systematic study of language / a discipline which describes language in all its aspects and formulates theories as how it works .

# TO UNDERSTAND LANGUAGE WE STUDY THE FOLLOWING:

- \* 1- use of sound signals
- \* 2-Arbitrariness
- \* 3-The need for learning
- \* 4-duality
- \* 5-displacement
- \* 6-creativity
- \* 7-patterning

# Studying a Language

1. Isolate the phonemes, or the smallest classes of sound that make a difference in meaning.
2. Determine all groups or combinations of sounds that seem to have meaning.
3. See how morphemes are put together to form phrases or sentences.

# Sound Signals

- \* Non-verbal communication is not as widespread as the use of sounds: bees-dance
- \* The use of sounds by: dolphins, birds, cows, monkeys, humans....
- \* Sound signals have advantages: can be used in the dark, at some distance, leave the body free for other activities.

# Similarities & written language

put tick to the following columns expressing suitable quality-



## **Structure Dependence:**

Look at these sentences:


The penguin squawked /the penguin which slipped on  
the ice squawked

Each of these sentences has a similar basic structure  
consisting of a subject and a verb.

# Structure Dependence

- \* Language operations are STRUCTURE DEPENDENCE – they depend on an understanding of the internal structure of a sentence rather than on the number of elements involved. (Yule, 1997)



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- \* Language operations are **structure dependence** – they depend on an understanding of the internal structure of a sentence rather than on the number of elements involved . This may seem clear to speakers of English but the rarity of this property in animal communication indicates its crucial importance .



Thank You