CORE COURSE - 5: (L1-1) Language, Variety and Stylistics

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ONLY FOR

Arts & Commerce General students

Marks Division

- 10 x 2 = 20
- 5 x 4 = 20
- 2 x 10 = 20

Total   = 60

Syllabus:

- Language & Communication – distinctness of human language

- Language varieties – Standard & Non-standard Language, Formal & Informal

- Difference between Declarative and Expressive forms of language – when Statement becomes Expression

- Register, Collocation and Style

What is language?

- A system for the communication, in symbols, of any kind of information.

- Through language, people share their experiences, concerns, and beliefs and communicate these to the next generation.

Distinctness of Human Language

- Language is verbal, vocal
- Language is a means of communication
- Language is a social phenomenon
- Language is arbitrary.
- Language is unique, creative, complex and modifiable.
- Language is systematic.
- Language is symbolic.
- Language is both linguistic and communicative competence.

What is communication?

- **Communication** (from Latin *commūnicāre*, meaning "to share") is the act of conveying intended <u>meanings</u> from one <u>entity</u> or <u>group</u> to another through the use of mutually understood <u>signs</u> and <u>semiotic</u> rules.

Different Types of Communication

o **Verbal Communication**

o **written communication**

o **Non-verbal Communication**

o **Verbal-Communication** - The sharing of information between individuals by using speech.

o **Written-Communication** - *Written communication* involves any type of interaction that makes use of the written word.

Non-verbal Communication

- <u>Non verbal communication</u> is a very wide concept and it includes all the other forms of communication which do not uses written or spoken words.

Non verbal communication takes following forms:

- Paralinguistics: other than actual language and involves tones, pitch, vocal cues etc

- Artifactics : personal accessories such as dresses or fashion

- Chronemics: pauses, silences and response lag during an interaction.
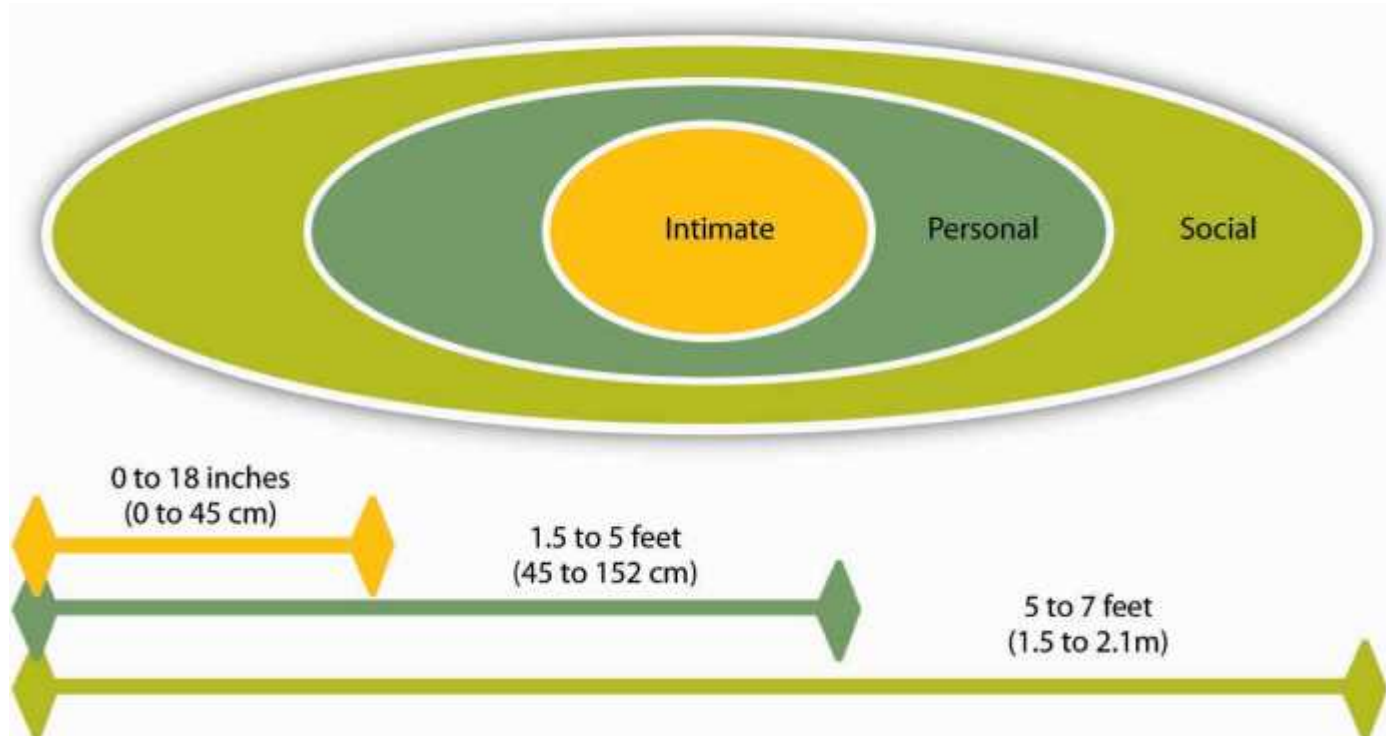
Cont.

- Kinesics:

  Body Language

  Eye Contact

  Touch

  Posture

  Facial Expressions

Proxemics: Anthropologist Edward T. Hall coined the term *proxemics* to denote the different kinds of distance that occur between people. These distances vary between cultures.

CHAPTER II:
What is standard language?

- A standard language is a variety of language that is used by governments, in the media, in schools and for international communication.

Features of Standard language

- An authoritative **dictionary** which records the vocabulary of the language
- An authoritative **grammar** which records the forms, rules and structures of the language
- A recognized standard of **pronunciation**;
- Mention of the language in **legal documents**
- The use of the language throughout **public life**

  (for example in a country's parliament) and its formal instruction in schools;
- A body of **literary texts**
- **Formal instruction** of and **research** into the language and its literature in institutions of higher education
- An **institution promoting** the use of the language and its formal instruction in educational institutions abroad
- **Translations** of key religious texts such as the Bible or the Koran.

Nonstandard language

- A **nonstandard** language is a dialect that does not have the institutional support or sanction that a **standard** dialect has. Like any dialect, a **nonstandard** dialect has its own vocabulary and an internally consistent grammar and syntax; and it may be spoken using one or a variety of accents.

Formal and Informal language

- We use formal language in situations that are serious or that involve people we don't know well.

- Formal language is more common when we write

- Informal language is more commonly used in situations that are more relaxed and involve people we know well.

- Informal language is more common when we speak.

Examples:

- Informal: *The improvements can t be introduced due to funding restrictions.*

   Formal: *Improvements cannot be introduced due to funding restrictions.*

- Informal: *The research project won t continue next year.*

   Formal: *The research project will not continue next year.*

- Informal: *The patient **got over** his illness.*
  Formal: *The patient **recovered** from his illness.*

- Informal: *The results of the study were **mixed up.***
  Formal: *The results of the study were **confused.***

- Informal: *The balloon was **blown up** for the experiment.*
  Formal: *The balloon was **inflated** for the experiment.*

Examples:

- Informal: ***The mob*** *was very rowdy during the protest.*

  Formal: ***The crowd*** *was very rowdy during the protest.*

- Informal: ***We*** *believe the practice is unsustainable.*

  Formal: *It is believed the practice is unsustainable.*

- Informal: ***I*** *considered various research methods for the study.*

  Formal: *Various research methods were considered for the study.*

Formal Versus Informal

Study the following table. This is how to say the same thing in two different ways

Formal	Informal
Your arrival	When you arrive
She has the ability	She can
Our destination	The place where we want to go
To distinguish	To tell the difference
To consider	To think about
Concerned about you	Worried about you
Revision should be done	You should revise
We will	We'll
Firstly	To start with / …. , for a start.
Secondly/besides/ furthermore,	Another good thing is / what's more/ Not only that,
Lastly,	And one of the best things is .. / And best of all,/ The most important thing is..
However/ on the other hand	But / ….., though
Thus/ consequently/	so
Many	Loads of / lots of
This will be of great benefit to you	It will do you good
It will cease to be a problem	It won't be a problem anymore
enquire	ask
Opportunity	chance
People consume a tremendous amount of…	People use a huge amount of
Repeatedly	Again and again
Deficiency	Lack of
Sufficient	Enough
Although the fault was repaired on 12th June, payment for this intervention has still not been received.	Our technician repaired the fault on 12th June. Now it's your turn to pay us.
We regret to inform you that … We have pleasure in announcing that …	I'm sorry but … I'm happy to say that …
Should you require any assistance, please feel free to contact us …	If you need any help, give us a call.
We can assist in the resolution of this matter. Contact us on 0224555656.	I can help you to solve this problem. Call me!

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Slang:
One form of non-standard language

- C'mon! = Come on!
- cop = policeman
- 'cos = because (first recorded in the *OED* in 1828)
- cuppa = cup of tea
- don't = doesn't – He don't love me.
- dunno = don't know (first recorded in the *OED* in 1842)
- gimme = give me – Gimme my bag!
- kinda = kind of
- lemme = let me – Lemme see that book!
- lil' = little – He's gotta nice lil' house in the country.
- lotta = a lot of – He's gotta lotta money!
- ma = mama
- OK = all right. Originally a deliberate misspelling of "all correct" *(oll korrect)*.
- ol' = old
- yeah = yes
- wotcha = What are you ...? – Wotcha gonna do when you get there?

What is a Declarative Sentence?

○ In English grammar, a declarative sentence is expressed in the form of a statement. Declaratives express an active state of being in the present tense, in contrast to a command (imperative), a question (interrogative), or an exclamation (exclamatory).

What is an Expressive form of language?

- Expressive form of language reports feelings or attitudes of the writer (or speaker), or of the subject, or evokes feelings in the reader (or listener).

Examples:

- Sankha **felt nervous**
- Rabin **was angry**
- Raka is **quite handsome**

Register

- In <u>linguistics</u>, one's register is a style or variety of <u>language</u> determined by such factors as social occasion, <u>context</u>, <u>purpose</u>, and <u>audience</u>, also called stylistic variation.

- **Examples:**

- King of *Spades* and Queen of *Hearts* (Game of Cards)

- Heavy rain due to *deep depression* (Meteorology)

- He knows how to predict the *bear and bull markets* (Stock market)

- Huge investment is required for modernizing the *plant* (Industry)

Collocation refers to how words go together or form fixed relationships.

- the fast train   the ~~quick~~ train
- fast food   ~~quick~~ food
- a quick shower   a ~~fast~~ shower
- a quick meal   a ~~fast~~ meal

- **Collocation: adjective and nouns**

- Joe always wears blue or white or some other **bright color**.

- We had a **brief chat** about Iraq but didn't have time to discuss it properly.

- Unemployment is a **major problem** for the government these days.

- Improving the health service is another **key issue** for the UK.

Collocation: Adverbs and adjectives

- Ben and Jane are **happily married**.
- You are **fully aware** that there are serious problems.
- George was **blissfully unaware** that he was in danger.

Collocation: Nouns and verbs

- The **economy boomed** in 2002.
- The **company has grown** and now employs over 30 people.
- The **company has expanded** and now has branches in most major countries.
- The four **companies merged** in 2013.
- They **launched the product** in 1998.
- The price increase **poses a problem** for them.
- The internet has **created opportunities** for his company.

Style:

- Styling, a branch of applied linguistics, is the study and interpretation of texts in regard to their linguistic and tonal style.

Five factors that contribute to the style

- Phonetic level
- Lexical level
- Graphological level
- Grammatical level
- Phonological level

Recommended questions:

A.Questions carrying 10 marks.

1. Discuss distinctive features of human language.

2. What is communication? Write a short article on various types of communication?

3. What is Standard language? What are the features of standard language?

4. Write a short essay on various types of Register with suitable examples.

5. Discuss five factors that contribute to the style of a piece of writing.

B. Questions carrying 5 marks.

- What do you understand by 'arbitrariness' of language? Give examples.
- Briefly discuss two non-verbal modes of communication.
- Distinguish between Formal and Informal language with suitable examples.
- What is a Declarative Sentence? Illustrate with suitable examples.
- What is an Expressive form of language? Give suitable examples.
- Define Register with suitable examples.
- Define "Collocation" and its various types.