

## Seminar 1. Emergence, expansion and diversification of modern linguistics

<i>Questions for discussion</i>	<i>Recommended reading</i>
<p>1. Characterize the following branches of modern linguistics:</p> <p>General or theoretical linguistics            Contrastive linguistics            Comparative linguistics            Historical linguistics            Applied linguistics            Sociolinguistics            Psycholinguistics            Computational linguistics            Developmental linguistics            Anthropological linguistics</p>	<p>Masaitiene, Dalia. Introduction into Linguistics: A Teaching Guide. – Kaunas, 2009. P. 5–6.</p>
<p>2. What features are considered common to all natural languages?</p>	<p>Fromkin, Victoria; Rodman, Robert; Hyams, Nina. An Introduction to Language. 7th ed. Thomson: Wadsworth, 2003, p. 27–28.</p> <p>Masaitiene, Dalia. Introduction into Linguistics: A Teaching Guide. – Kaunas, 2009. P. 6–8.</p>
<p>3. Why creativity is a very important feature of all natural human languages?</p>	<p>Masaitiene, Dalia. Introduction into Linguistics: A Teaching Guide. – Kaunas, 2009. P. 6–8.</p>
<p>4. Prove that natural languages are redundant and systematic.</p>	<p>Masaitiene, Dalia. Introduction into Linguistics: A Teaching Guide. – Kaunas, 2009. P. 5–6.</p>
<p>5. Enumerate and comment on the principles of modern linguistics. Do practical Task 1.</p>	<p>The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London &amp; New York, 2002. Introduction xxvii.</p>
<p>6. Speak on the beginnings of American linguistics (<i>Franz Boas, Leonard Bloomfield, Edward Sapir, The Linguistic Society of America</i>).</p>	<p>The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London &amp; New York, 2002. Introduction xxviii.</p>
<p>7. Speak on the primary areas of interest of the Linguistic Society of America.</p>	<p>Online resource [<a href="https://www.acls.org/Focus-on-Societies/Linguistic-Society-of-America">https://www.acls.org/Focus-on-Societies/Linguistic-Society-of-America</a>].</p>
<p>8. Give a brief outline of linguistics in Britain during the 1st phase of its development (<i>Henry Sweet, Daniel Jones</i>).</p>	<p>The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London &amp; New York, 2002. Introduction xxix.</p>
<p>9. Prove that the time of transition in Europe and the USA was very different.</p>	<p>The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London &amp; New York, 2002. Introduction xxix.</p>

10. Give an account of structuralism as one of the ‘mainstream’ approaches to linguistics in the twentieth century.	The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2nd edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London & New York, 2002. Introduction.
11. What does the term “ <i>Generativism</i> ” refer to?	The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2nd edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London & New York, 2002. Introduction.
12. Give an account of functionalism as one of the ‘mainstream’ approaches to linguistics in the twentieth century.	The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London & New York, 2002. Introduction.

### Practical tasks

#### Task 1: Read two excerpts taken from

(1) The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London & New York, 2002. (Introduction, p. xxvii–xxviii);

(2) Masaitiene, Dalia. Introduction into Linguistics: A Teaching Guide. – Kaunas, 2009. P. 8–10.

Fill in the following table and find differences between the Principles of Modern Structural Linguistics, singled out by the authors.

<i>Principles of Modern Linguistics in “The Linguistics Encyclopedia”</i>	<i>Principles of Modern Linguistics in “Introduction into Linguistics”</i>
1. 2. ...	1. 2. ...

Task 2. Systematize the following scientific works according to the phase of the development in 20th century linguistics (The Linguistics Encyclopedia. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition / Malmkjær, Kirsten. – Routledge: London & New York, 2002. Introduction, p. xxvii–xxviii):

Saussure’s final lecture series in Geneva; Chomsky’s *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*; Bloomfield’s *Introduction to the Study of Language*; Chomsky’s *Syntactic Structures*; Chomsky’s *Knowledge of Language*; Death of Whorf; Death of Saussure (1857–1913); Halliday’s ‘Categories of the theory of grammar’; Harris’s *Methods in Structural Linguistics*; Bloomfield’s *Language*; Linguistic Society of America founded; Halliday’s *Explorations in the Functions of Language*; Linguistic Circle of Prague founded; Sapir’s *Language*; Halliday’s *Introduction to Functional Grammar* J.R. Firth becomes Professor of General Linguistics, University of London; Malinowski’s ‘The problem of meaning in primitive languages’.

<i>The emergence of modern linguistics</i>	<i>A time of transition</i>	<i>The expansion and diversification of linguistics</i>
...	...	...

Task 3: Watch the video “Creativity and Generativity” and answer the following questions. [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPJVx5ASvZk&t=165s>]

(1) What does it mean to say that mental grammar is generative?

- Every child inherits a mental grammar through their genes.
- Some languages can generate concepts that are impossible to express in other languages.

- *The principles of mental grammar allow us to form completely novel sentences, and to understand them when we hear them.*

(2) The systematic principles of English phonology generate some word forms but not others. Which of the following words could be a possible word in English?

- *Klaff.*
- *Fkal.*
- *Flakf.*
- *Sflak.*

(3) The systematic principles of English syntax generate some sentences but not others. Which of the following sentences is not possible in English?

- *You ain't going nowhere.*
- *Herself have wrote these excellent book.*
- *Sam said she needed to speak to Chris and me.*

**Task 4.** Consider the following mind maps. What principle of organization does each have? Which of them structure the ideas about modern linguistics best? Write a short essay. Give reasons.

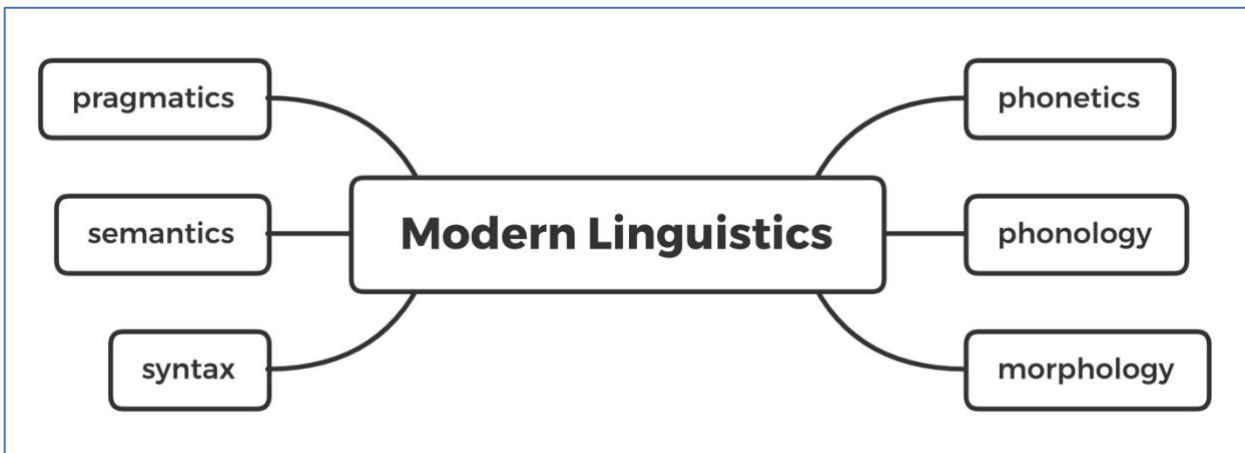


Figure 1

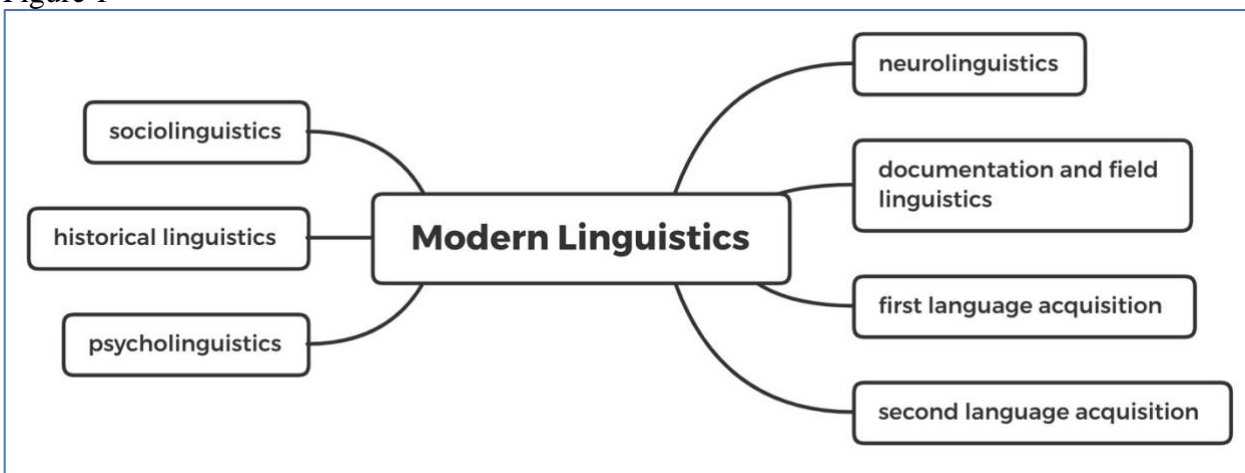


Figure 2

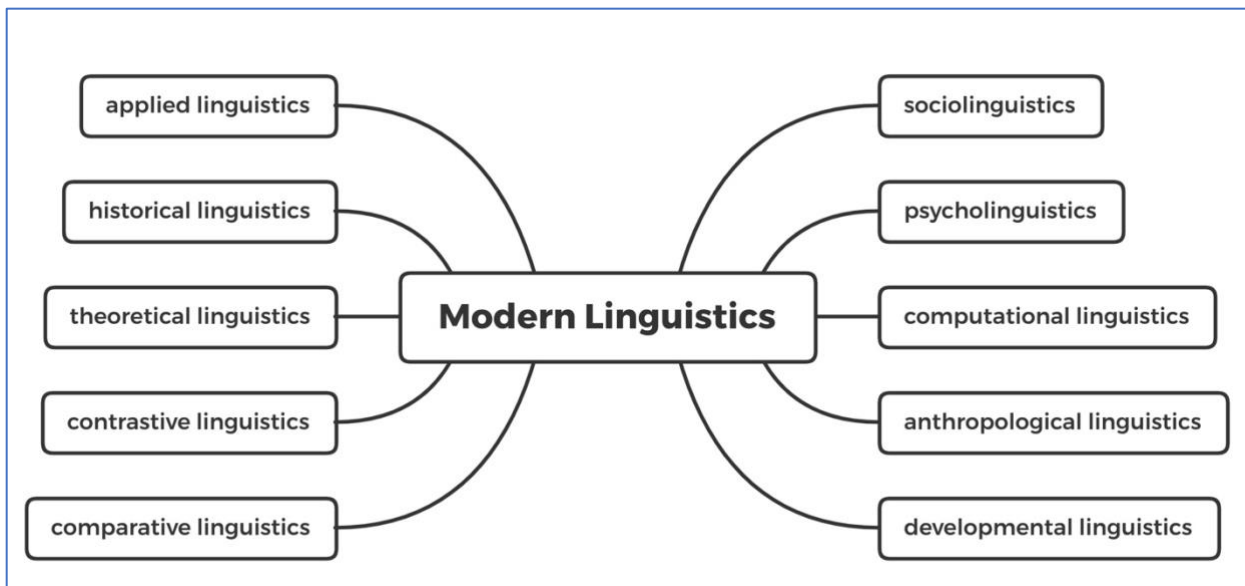


Figure 3

**Task 5.** Read the following excerpt from the article “*The Development of Linguistics and Its Prospects*” by Zhang Jie and create a mind map visualizing ideas about the main western linguistic schools. Use a free online resource [URL: <https://www.mindmup.com/>].

### The Schools of Linguistics

Schools of linguistics are raised and put forward by many linguists and philosophers. From different perspectives on language, linguists and philosophers have different understanding of language. People put the researches into different schools. *The Western Linguistics Schools* by LIU Run-qing (1995) illustrated the main western linguistic schools:

(1) Traditional grammar: Traditional grammar is a framework for the description of the structure of a language. Traditional grammars are commonly used in language education. They may be contrasted with theories of grammar in theoretical linguistics. Traditional grammars seek to describe how particular languages are used, or to teach people to speak or read them. Traditional grammars generally classify words into parts of speech. They describe the patterns for word inflection, and the rules of syntax by which those words are combined into sentences.

(2) Historical linguistics: Historical linguistics, is also called diachronic linguistics. Principal concerns of historical linguistics include: to describe and account for observed changes in particular languages, to reconstruct the pre-history of languages, and to determine their relatedness, grouping them into language families (comparative linguistics), to develop general theories about how and why language changes, to describe the history of speech communities, and to study the history of words, i.e., etymology.

(3) Saussure’s linguistics: Saussure’s linguistic theory of regarding language as a synchronic and static sign system has turned the historical trend of linguistics and opened up a new pattern of modern linguistics, thus makes linguistics get great achievement in the 20th century.

(4) The Prague School: The Prague School, or Prague linguistic circle, was an influential group of literary critics and linguists in Prague. Its proponents developed methods of structuralist literary analysis and a theory of the standard language and of language cultivation during the years 1928–1939. The linguistic circle was founded in the Café Derby in Prague, which was also where meetings took place during its first years.

(5) Copenhagen School: The Copenhagen School is a term given to “schools” of theory originating in Copenhagen, Denmark. In at least four different scientific disciplines, a theoretical approach originating in Copenhagen has been so influential that they have been dubbed the Copenhagen School.

(6) Structuralism School: In sociology, anthropology, and linguistics, structuralism is the theory that elements of human culture must be understood in terms of their relationship to a larger, overarching system or structure. It works to uncover the structures that underlie all the things that humans do, think, perceive,

and feel. Alternatively, as summarized by philosopher Simon Blackburn, structuralism is the belief that phenomena of human life are not intelligible except through their interrelations. These relations constitute a structure, and behind local variations in the surface phenomena there are constant laws of abstract culture.

(7) London Language School: language as action. Meaning derives from situational context, Phatic communion (as a type of situation) in which Saussure put forward the general direction of the modern linguistics, the nature of the language, and the language of the task. In his famous works *General Linguistics*, Saussure discussed the language features, made a distinction between the historical significance of the “langue” and “parole”; “synchronic linguistics and diachronic linguistics”, and put forward the theory of Semiotics in language. The first characteristic of language symbols is its arbitrariness. Saussure is also the founder of Semiotics (semiology). Saussure pointed out that the question of language is mainly the question of semiology, and all of our demonstration should obtain meaning from this important fact. To know the essence of language, we must know what common qualities it has with other congener sign system first. He thought that we can imagine there is one science studying the life of sign in social life; we call it semiology.

The “Sapir Wolf hypothesis” profoundly expounds the relationship between language and thinking, which becomes an important part of his theory. This has a certain significance in sociology, anthropology, linguistics, and language teaching.

Bloomfield and the theory of behavior were influenced by the prevailing behavioral psychology. And later by the influence of Bloomfield’s language concept, Harris further developed the structuralism and formed a strict positivism which caused into the Post-Bloomfield era.

Halliday and Functional Linguistics: Systemic linguistics and functional linguistics are also known as systemic functional linguistics. Halliday is the representative of this school. His representative works are those as *Functional Grammar*, the interpretation of *Language and Meaning*. He is unanimously regarded as the master of systematic functional linguistics.

Chomsky and Generative Grammar: He was influenced by structural, and his first book *The Syntactic Structure* has not gotten rid of the framework of the structuralism. He increasingly felt that the both traditional grammar and structural grammar, could only meet the description of language. They did not answer a fundamental question. He proposed an important language theory. Such as: language ability and language behavior, language acquisition, transformational generative grammar, syntactic structure theory, standard theory, and extended standard theory.

**Task 6.** Visit the site <https://ling.yale.edu/about-us/bloomfield>, find out more about Leonard Bloomfield’s expertise and answer the following questions:

- Discuss Bloomfield’s major contributions to linguistics.
- What implications did Bloomfield’s Indo-European work have?