



BASICS OF LANGUAGE SCIENCE

PROF. RAJESH KUMAR

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
IIT Madras

TYPE OF COURSE : Rerun | Elective | UG/PG

COURSE DURATION : 12 Weeks (24 Jan' 22 - 15 Apr' 22)

EXAM DATE : 23 Apr 2022

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.

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