APPLIED LINGUISTICS WHAT IT IS AND THE HISTORY OF THE DISCIPLINE

CORE READINGS:


PART I based on Grabe (2002)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES. At the end of this unit you should be able to answer the following questions:

1. When and how was the discipline of Applied linguistics born?
2. What is Applied Linguistics about? Which are the most commonly regarded subfields of applied linguistics?
3. When was the term ‘applied linguistics’ believed to be first used?
4. Which was the first academic journal to have ‘applied linguistics’ in its title? In which field would you classify this journal today?
5. Why was the II World War important in the emerging of the discipline?
6. Which is the international association of applied linguistics that gathers most national associations? When was it born? How often does it meet?
7. Which is the field/discipline that traditionally was first associated with applied linguistics?
8. In which decade was the filed of applied linguistics broaden to real-world-language-based disciplines?
9. Which are the four major consequences of the fact that the field of applied linguistics shifted to real-world problems rather than theoretical explorations?
10. Which are the main characteristics of each decade?
11. Which are the four emphasis in the 90s according to Grabe (2008:7-8)?
12. Which are the two main criticism to the field of applied linguistics? Why do some scholars claim that Applied Linguistics is not a discipline? What is the author’s point of view? Why?
13. Which are the eight features Grabe (2008:11) chooses to characterize the field of applied linguistics?
14. Which are some of the applied linguistics supporting disciplines following Grabe (2008)?
15. What is the central issue in Applied Linguistics? Has it changed in the same way as its scope?
16. Why is Generative Linguistics not dominant in Applied Linguistics? Which are the competing approaches for linguistic analysis that are growing recognition, instead? Why are they preferred to the generative approach?
17. Why is interdisciplinarity a defining aspect of Applied Linguistics nowadays?

CONTENTS:

Applied Linguistics definition
History of applied linguistics:
- 1959 CAL
- 1964 AILA
- 50s
- 60s
- 70s
- 80s
- 90s
- 00s
Language Teaching influence
Real-world, language driven problems
Multi and Interdisciplinarity

Authors:
Bloomfield,
Corder,
Chomsky
Wilkins

Applied linguistics sub fields:
- SLA
- Language Assessment and Testing
- Cognition
- Language Policy and Planning
- Lexicography
- Translation
- Multilingualism
- Language and Technology
- Descriptive linguistics
- Corpus Linguistics
- …
APPLIED LINGUISTICS WHAT IT IS AND THE HISTORY OF THE DISCIPLINE

Applied linguistics supporting disciplines:
- Psycholinguistics
- Education
- Anthropology
- Sociolinguistics
- Political science
- English studies:
  - Composition
  - Rhetoric
  - Literacy studies

Applied Linguistics Journals: (See NavesALJournals)

  Language Learning
  Applied Linguistics
  Annual Review of Applied Linguistics
  Etc.

Applied Linguistics Associations (See NavesALAssociations)

  AESLA
  AILA
  AAAL
  BAAL

Applied Linguistics Databases (See NavesALDatabases)

  LLBA
  ERIC

Applied Linguistics Reference books, dictionaries and manuals (See NavesALBib)

NOTE: All the tasks in this handout should be answered electronically at the
      Discipline" available in the ‘tests’ folder from Naves Applied Linguistic Electronic
      Reserve at the UB library www.dossiers.ub.edu
APPLIED LINGUISTICS DEFINITIONS

**APPLIED LINGUISTICS.**

- The application of LINGUISTICS to the study and improvement of LANGUAGE TEACHING, LANGUAGE LEARNING, LANGUAGE PLANNING, communication between groups, speech therapy and the management of language handicap, systems of communications, translating and interpreting, and lexicography.

- The bulk of the work of applied linguists to date has related to language teaching and language learning and especially English as a foreign or second language.

- The term owes its origin to US language-teaching programmes during and after the Second World War, largely based on Leonard Bloomfield's *Outline Guide for the Practical Study of Foreign Languages* (1942), which was influenced by the early, mainly European, advocates of the Direct Method, in particular Henry Sweet.

- In 1948, *Language Learning: A Quarterly Journal of Applied Linguistics* was started at the U. of Michigan by Charles C. Fries, supported among others by Kenneth L. Pike and W. Freeman Twaddell, to disseminate information about work at Fries's English Language Institute (founded 1941).

- In Britain, a *School of Applied Linguistics* was established by J. C. Catford at the U. of Edinburgh in 1956, and the *Center for Applied Linguistics* was set up in Washington, DC, under Charles Ferguson in 1959.

- Similar institutes have since been set up in various parts of the world. National associations of applied linguists came together in 1964 to form the *Association internationale de la linguistique appliquée (AILA)*, which holds a four-yearly international congress with published proceedings. See HALLIDAY.

applied linguistics

Strictly any application of linguistics. But often in practice of a discipline which applies the findings of linguistics, among others, in education: e.g. or especially to teaching English as a foreign or second language.


Applied linguistics:

- The branch of linguistics concerned with practical applications of language studies,
- with particular emphasis on the communicative function of language,
- and including such professional practices as
  1. lexicography,
  2. terminology,
  3. general or technical translation,
  4. language teaching (general or specialized language, mother tongue or second language),
  5. writing,
  6. interpretation,
  7. and computer processing of language.


History of Applied Linguistics

- **1948**: Language Learning: A Journal of Applied Linguistics
- **50’s**: insights of structural and functional linguistics that could be applied to language teaching
  - Literacy in L2 and L1
- **60’s**: Assessment
  - Language policies
  - SLA

Four consequences of emphasis on real-world problems language-based problems

1. Locally situated contexts – Needs analysis
2. Language as functional and discourse based – Descriptive & Functional linguistics
3. Multiple approaches & Interdisciplinary
4. Wide array of research methodologies & tools

History of Applied Linguistics

- **70’s**: Real-world language-based problems
  - Language teaching remains important.
  - Expand to include
    - Assessment
    - SLA literacy
    - Multilingualism
    - Language minority rights
    - Language planning and policy
History of Applied Linguistics –iii–

- 80’s
  - "Linguistics applied" perspective
  - Beyond language teaching and language learning
  - Expand to include
    - Language Assessment
    - Language Policy and Planning
    - Language use in professional settings
    - Translation
    - Lexicography
    - Multilingualism
    - Language and Technology
    - Corpus Linguistics

History of Applied Linguistics –iv–

- 90’s
  - Incorporation of new subfields
  - Drawing on supporting disciplines:
    - Psychology
    - Education
    - Anthropology
    - Sociology
    - Political science
    - Policy studies
    - Administration studies
    - English studies
    - ESL
    - Composition
    - Literacy

History of Applied Linguistics –v–.

Four emphasis in the 90s

1. In language teaching and learning & SLA: fonf, awareness, action research, CLT, TBL, CBI.
2. Critical studies: Critical discourse analysis, pedagogy, measurement, etc.
3. Language uses in academic and professional settings: EAP.
4. Descriptive analysis and Corpus Linguistics
5. Multilingualism
6. Language Testing
7. Mediating discipline

1. Academic journals and associations
2. Linguistics = core knowledge but the purpose is not simply to "apply it.
3. Real-world, language-driven problems
4. Supporting disciplines: psychology, education, anthropology, political science, sociology
5. Interdisciplinary
7. Subfields: SLA, forensic linguistics, language testing, corpus linguistics, lexicography, dictionary making, language translation, second language writing research
8. Language-related studies: language pathology, natural language processing, L2 literacy

PART II


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TASK 1

Read the two core abovementioned readings (Grabe, W., 2002 and Schmitt, R. & Celce-Murcia M., 2002) and then answer all the questions listed in the expected outcomes online in Naves Applied Linguistic Electronic Reserves www.dossiers.ub.edu

TASK 2

When *Language Learning* was first published in 1948 it was published as *Language Learning: A Journal of Applied Linguistics*. Examine the journal web site and find out today’s subtitle: *Language Learning: A Journal of Research in Language Studies*. Which field is *Language Learning* usually associated with?

*Language Learning* is a scientific journal dedicated to the understanding of language learning broadly defined.

It publishes research articles that systematically apply methods of inquiry from disciplines including • psychology, • linguistics, • cognitive science, • educational inquiry, • neuroscience, • ethnography, • sociolinguistics, • sociology, and • anthropology.

It is concerned with fundamental theoretical issues in language learning such as • child, second, and foreign language acquisition, • language education, • bilingualism, • literacy, • language representation in mind and brain, • culture, • cognition, • pragmatics, and • intergroup relations.

(Edited by T. Navés from http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/aims.asp?ref=0023-8333&site=1)
TASK 3:

Read the following edited extract from the Center of Applied Linguistics (CAL) and comment on the similarities between its history and that of Applied Linguistics as a field. You may read more about CAL history at www.cal.org/about/history.html

The **Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL)** was created in this environment of increased interest in language issues by our founder and first director, Dr. Charles A. Ferguson, a pioneer in the field of **applied linguistics**.

CAL was established in **1959** by a grant from the Ford Foundation to the Modern Language Association to serve as a **liaison between the academic world of linguistics and the practical world of language education and language-related concerns**.

CAL was the first organization of its kind to focus on

1. the identification of **qualified personnel for language-focused professions**,
2. professional development for **language teachers**,
3. and development of **linguistically sound materials for English** as a second language and foreign language instruction.

CAL’s original mandate was

1. to **improve the teaching of English** around the world;
2. encourage the **teaching and learning of less commonly taught languages**;
3. contribute new knowledge to the field by conducting language research to **resolve social and educational problems**;
4. and serve as a **clearinghouse** for **information collection, analysis, and dissemination** and
5. as a **coordinating agency** to bring together **scholars and practitioners** involved in **language-related issues**.

(Edited by T.Naves from www.cal.org/about/history.html)
TASK 4 Discuss Harris’s (2002: 11-12) conclusion in

6. TOWARDS A CONCLUSION

The utility of linguistics to L2 pedagogy is a debate which has engaged two generations of applied linguists. It comprises part of the field’s past traditions, its present trends and future directions forming a continuum which describes development and change in applied linguistics. It is a debate which can be located at each end of the continuum and one in which the rhetoric used, as well as some of its principal purveyors, appears to have evolved little over time to the extent that one might, with some justification, question how far applied linguistics as an enquiry has moved forward. It is, perhaps, the answer to this question which continues to shroud the field in uncertainty.

There are at least two issues that may have protracted the linguistics-in-applied-linguistics argument and neither is directly connected with the academic debate. The first is concerned with the institutional status of applied linguistics specifically within the academic hierarchy. Kramsch (2000: 319)

notes “there is some confusion about the academic and scholarly respectability of a field that is often viewed as having to do exclusively with teaching, not research.” Kramsch frames her discussion within a North American context, but there are certainly resonances of such a stance in British and Spanish academic institutions. And, as we have seen here, applied linguistic associations like BAAL and AILA appear to be reticent to openly state that the most common application of research in the field is in L2 teaching and learning. These associations cast a wide net to define what it is that they do. But to describe a field as ‘multidisciplinary’ is to describe almost all areas of academic enquiry; to describe an ‘applied’ science as ‘practical’ is to define it using a synonym. Neither is satisfactory. Conversely, a field which is conceived in terms of discourse analysis, stylistics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, sign linguistics and deafness studies, language pathology and therapy, human rights in the language world (items drawn from AILA’s list of research areas, 2002) acquires instant cachet and academic robustness. But the tenuous relationship that some of these disciplines have to the more central concerns of applied linguistics, like L2 pedagogy, is misleading to the point of misrepresentation.
ABSTRACT:

This paper looks at some of the underlying reasons which might explain the uncertainty surrounding applied linguistics as an academic enquiry. The opening section traces the emergence of the field through its professional associations and publications and identifies second and foreign language (L2) teaching as its primary activity. The succeeding section examines the extent to which L2 pedagogy, as a branch of applied linguistics, is conceived within a theoretical linguistic framework and how this might have changed during a historical period that gave rise to Chomskyan linguistics and the notion of communicative competence. The concluding remarks offer explanations to account for the persistence of linguistic parameters to define applied linguistics.


Which are the reasons that may account for the persistence of linguistic parameters to define applied linguistics following Harris (2002)?
1. When and how was the discipline of Applied linguistics born?

2. What is Applied Linguistics about? Which are the most commonly regarded subfields of applied linguistics?

3. When was the term 'applied linguistics' believed to be first used?

4. Which was the first academic journal to have ‘applied linguistics’ in its title? In which field would you classify this journal today? When was it first published?

5. Why was the II War War important in the emerging of the discipline?

6. Which is the international association of applied linguistics that gathers most national associations? When was it born? How often does it meet?
7. Which is the field/discipline that traditionally was first associated with applied linguistics?

8. In which decade was the field of applied linguistics broaden to real-world-language-based disciplines?

9. Which are the four major consequences of the fact that the field of applied linguistics shifted to real-world problems rather than theoretical explorations?

10. What was the most important change in the history of applied linguistics which took place in the 70s?

11. In which decade was the emphasis on "real-world language-based problems" first introduced?
   - a) 50s
   - b) 60s
   - c) 70s
   - d) 80s
   - e) 90s
   - f) 00s

12. The notion that applied linguistics is driven first by real-world problems rather than theoretical explorations was first introduced in the
   - a) 50s
   - b) 60s
   - c) 70s
   - d) 80s
   - e) 90s
   - f) 00s

13. Today's common trend to draw on many supporting disciplines in addition to linguistics (e.g. ...
psychology, education, anthropology, sociology, political science, political studies, English studies) was not incorporated until

- 50s-60s
- 60s-70s
- 70s-80s
- 80s-90s
- 90s-00s


- 50s
- 60s
- 70s
- 80s
- 90s
- 00s

15. Which are the seven emphasis which characterise the trends and perspectives of applied linguistics in the 90s?

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)

16. Explain the following excerpt from Grabe (2008:9) in your own words

17. Which subfield of applied linguistics address the problems related to gender?

- a) Language learning problems
- b) Language teaching problems
- c) Literacy problems
- d) Language contact problems
- e) Language inequality problems
- f) Language policy and planning problems
- g) Language assessment problems
- h) Language and technology problems
18. Which subfield of applied linguistics address the problems related to aptitude?

- a) Language learning problems
- b) Language teaching problems
- c) Literacy problems
- d) Language contact problems
- e) Language inequality problems
- f) Language policy and planning problems
- g) Language assessment problems
- h) Language and technology problems
- i) Language pathology problems

19. Which subfield of applied linguistics address the problems related to dyslexia?

- a) Language learning problems
- b) Language teaching problems
- c) Literacy problems
- d) Language contact problems
- e) Language inequality problems
- f) Language policy and planning problems
- g) Language assessment problems
- h) Language and technology problems
- i) Language pathology problems

20. Which are the two main criticisms made by many critics to the field of applied linguistics?

21. List and briefly explain the eight main features that Grabe (2008:11) selected to characterise the field of applied linguistics
22. What is the central issue in Applied Linguistics? Has it changed in the same way as its scope?

23. Why is Generative Linguistics not dominant in Applied Linguistics? Which are the competing approaches for linguistic analysis that are growing recognition, instead? Why are they preferred to the generative approach?

24. Read the following extract from CAL and point out the similarities between the history of CAL and the history of Applied Linguistics as a field.

"The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) was created in this environment of increased interest in language issues by our founder and first director, Dr. Charles A. Ferguson, a pioneer in the field of applied linguistics. CAL was established in 1959 by a grant from the Ford Foundation to the Modern Language Association to serve as a liaison between the academic world of linguistics and the practical world of language education and language-related concerns. CAL was the first organization of its kind to focus on the identification of qualified personnel for language-focused professions, professional development for language teachers, and development of linguistically sound materials for English as a second language and foreign language instruction. CAL's original mandate was to improve the teaching of English around the world; encourage the teaching and learning of less commonly taught languages; contribute new knowledge to the field by conducting language research to resolve social and educational problems; and serve as a clearinghouse for information collection, analysis, and dissemination and as a coordinating agency to bring together scholars and practitioners involved in language-related issues. Since its inception, CAL has played a leading role in conducting research on language use, language learning, and effective teaching methods and translating research into practical applications to help language learners succeed. Despite many changes during its growth, CAL's mandate remains much the same. CAL's current mission is to improve communication through better understanding of language and culture. Among the populations that CAL serves are language educators of children and adults who are learning foreign languages and English as a second language; immigrants and refugees in the United States and the agencies that provide services for them; schools and school districts in need of curriculum development, professional development, and assessments; and policy makers who need information about language and culture to address the important issues of the day." (Source: http://www.cal.org/about/history.html)
25. When Language Learning was first published in 1948 it was published as "Language Learning: A Journal of Applied Linguistics". Today however the journal is known as "Language Learning: A Journal of Research in Language Studies". Which field is Language Learning usually associated with nowadays?