Several areas of studies in Linguistics

- General or theoretical linguistics
- Descriptive linguistics
- Comparative and Historical Linguistics
- Applied Linguistics
Several areas of studies in Linguistics

- General linguistics
  a question as how the linguist defines his object of study; the properties he assumes all languages must have
- descriptive linguistics
  the main task of the linguists to describe languages in a scientific fashion.
- comparative and historical linguistics
  the historical development of a language.
- Applied linguistics
  the study of language and linguistics in relation to practical problems.
What is a linguist?

• A person who studies linguistics.
• Linguists does not need to be fluent in languages.
• They must have a wide experience of different types of languages.
Linguistics

• The systematic study of language
• Study language in scientific manner

Scientific manner
1. Objective or disinterested
2. Empirical method

Empiric
Observation, description, and explanation
How does linguistics differ from traditional grammar

• Linguistics is descriptive not prescriptive. interested in what is said not what they think ought to be said.

• Linguists regard the spoken language as primary not the written.

• It does not force languages into Latin
The scope of linguistics

- Phonetics
  the study of the production and perception of speech sounds
- Phonology
  the study of the sound patterns of language. It is concerned with how sounds are organized in a language
- Syntax
  arrangement and the forms of words
- Semantics
  deals with meanings of words
- Pragmatics
  deals with how speakers use language in ways which cannot predicted from linguistics alone. This is the expanding topic of semantics
• Sociolinguistics
  the study of language and society
• applied linguistics,
  the application of linguistics to language teaching
• Psycholinguistics
  the study of language and mind
• Stylistics
  the study of language and literature
• Sociology, anthropology, philosophy, literature, languages, psychology
• Synchronic linguistics
  the analysis of language at a single point in time
• Diachronic linguistics
  dealt with before historical
• Phonology, syntax, and semantics are bread and butter of linguistics.
What is language?

- The specialized sound signaling system which seems to be genetically programmed to develop in humans.
- Humans can communicate in numerous other ways; they can wink, wave, smile, tap someone on the shoulder, etc.
- Humans can transfer language to other media; written symbols, Braille, sign language.
- Language based on sound is more widespread, and perhaps more basic.
The characteristics of language

• Use of sound signals → several advantages
• Arbitrariness → there is no link whatsoever between the signal and the message. The symbols are arbitrary. Onomatopoeic words are exceptions, but there are relatively few.
• The need for learning
• Duality
  the organization of language into two layers- a layer of sounds which combine into a second layer of larger units
• Displacement
  human language can communicate about things that are absent as easily as about things that are present.
The characteristics of language

• Creativity (productivity)
  human can produce novel utterances whenever they want to.

• Patterning
  Human language is most definitely not a haphazard heap of individual items. They do not juxtapose sounds and words in a random way. They ring the changes on a few well-defined patterns.

• Structure dependence
Human language vs animal communication

• Both human and animal use signaling system which uses sounds
• Duality and displacement are extremely rare in the animal world.
• Creativity seems not to be present in an animal communication
• Patterning and structure dependence may also be unique language features.
Origin of language

- How and when did we start to talk?
- Probably developed in east Africa
  1. humans had to view the world in certain ways
  2. they are able to produce a range of sounds
  3. they must have attained the ‘naming insight.'
The role of language

- Persuading and influencing
- Communicating feelings and emotions
- For aesthetic reason