

Degree iii, (English Honours)

Paper – VIII

Subject- Linguistics

Lecture- 3

LINGUISTICS AND RELATED FIELDS OF STUDY

Philosophers had to coin numerous terms to communicate their metaphysical and mystical experience. Sanskrit philosophers went to extent of equating the word with Brahma (God). Some of the major features of the systems of logics and metaphysics are partly determined by certain predominant features of the structure of the language used in philosopher's community.

Yet there are deep rooted differences between philosophy and linguistics. The philosopher's concern is with the use of language of certain purposes that are common to many communities; he is not interested in the detailed difference between languages. The linguist's concern is with the details of each language of its own shake, and he evolves and evaluates theories primarily to deal with particular languages. The linguist is particularly interested in the formal structuring of the sentences of a language; the philosophical is interested in the logical structure and the inferential possibilities of the propositions they express irrespective of the grammar

of any particular language. Hence both these disciplines are getting remote from each other these days.

Linguistics studies human language. Whether language is behaviour or a cognitive process or both, is still controversial issues; yet it is well accepted that psychology is the study of human behaviour and human mind. Hence, both linguistics and psychology are closely related.

Investigations and attempts to find out answers to certain fundamental questions like the following ones are likely to provide invaluable clues to the linguist.

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