



# LANGUAGE

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WEEK - 1

# What is 'language'?

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# Sapir (1921)

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Language is a purely **human** and **non-instinctive** method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of **voluntarily produced symbols**



# Bloch & Trager (1942)

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A language is a system of **arbitrary vocal symbols** by means of which a social group **co-operates**.



# Hall (1968)

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Language is the institution whereby **humans communicate** and **interact** with each other by means of habitually used **oral-auditory arbitrary symbols.**



# Chomsky (1957)

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Language is a **set** (finite or infinite) of **sentences**, each **finite in length** and **constructed out of a finite set of elements.**



# Kridalaksana (2005)

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Language is a **system** of **arbitrary vocal symbols** used by members of a society to **cooperate**, **communicate**, and to show **self-identity**.

What are  
the key words?

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# Language is a system.

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- Language comprises well arranged **elements**.
- Language is **well patterned**.
- Language has such **subsystems** as phonology, grammar, lexis.



# Language is a system of sounds.

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- Main element of language is **sound**.
- People can speak before they can write.
- Writing is a representation of spoken symbols.



**Language is a system of symbols.**

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**Smoke: sign or symbol?**



# Sign or Symbol?





# ***WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS?***





- Wajan
- Kualu
- Frying pan



# LANGUAGE IS ARBITRARY.

arbitrary

adjective UK  /'ɑː.bɪ.trər.i/ US  /'ɑːr.bə.trer-/




**arbitrary** adjective (CHANCE)

**C2** based on chance rather than being planned or based on reason:

*arbitrary decision-making*

*Did you have a reason for choosing your destination or was it arbitrary?*

ar·bi·trary  adjective \ˈär-bə-,trēr-ē, -,tre-rē\

: not planned or chosen for a particular reason : not based on reason or evidence

: done without concern for what is fair or right



# Language is arbitrary.

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- ❑ Used based on agreement
- ❑ No obligatory relation between the symbol and the concept (or meaning)
- ❑ **Exception:** Onomatopoeia





# Language is productive.

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With limited elements, language can be used by lots of speakers.

- How many Indonesian words can you make with “m”, “a”, “r”, and “i”?
- How many alphabets does Indonesian have?
- How many sentences can you make with those alphabets?





# Language has uniqueness.

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Each language has typical system that is not always available in any other language.

Look at the examples below:

- ❑ Aku tuku **buku biru loro**.
- ❑ Saya membeli **dua buku biru**.
- ❑ I buy **two blue books**.



# Language has **universal properties.**

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- ❑ Language has a system that is also applicable in any other language.
  - ❑ All languages have vocal symbols consisting vocals, consonants, or diphthongs.
  - ❑ All languages have meaningful units: phoneme, morpheme, words, etc.
- ❑ Indonesian have many similar systems as Malay.



# Language has variations

**No uniformity** can exist in a language.







They are probably speaking  
Javanese, but their speaking  
Javanese **must be different.**





# Language is functional.

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- ❑ Language can be a self-identity.
- ❑ Language is a means to communicate, to cooperate, and to stay alive.

What makes  
human language  
different from  
animal language?

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LET'S SUMMARIZE...

**That's all for today.**

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**QUESTIONS?**