**Applied Linguistics**

**Definitions**

Applied linguistics can be described as a broad interdisciplinary field of study concerned with solutions to problems or the improvement of situations involving language and its users and uses. The emphasis on application distinguishes it from the study of language in the abstract that is, general or theoretical linguistics. It is mainly concerned with the systematic study of language structure, the acquisition of first and subsequent languages, the role of language in communication, and the status of language as the product of particular cultures and other social groups.

  Applied Linguistics provides the theoretical and descriptive foundations for the investigation and solution of language-related problems, especially those of language education (first-language, second-language and foreign-language teaching and learning), but also problems of translation and interpretation, lexicography, forensic linguistics and (perhaps) clinical linguistics.

Applied linguistics is a discipline which explores the relations between theory and practice in language with particular reference to issues of language use. It embraces contexts in which people use and learn languages and is a platform for systematically addressing problems involving the use of language and communication in real-world situations. Applied linguistics draws on a range of disciplines, including linguistics. In consequence, applied linguistics has applications in several areas of language study, including language learning and teaching, the psychology of language processing, discourse analysis, stylistics, corpus analysis, literacy studies and language planning and policies.

Applied Linguistics itself may be seen as an autonomous, problem-solving disciple, concerned broadly with language (mainly, but not exclusively second language) education and language problems in society’. It is a discipline to solve language problems which can be identified and analyzed in the society especially for the field of language education and second language.

**Why Applied Linguistics?**

Applied linguistics is intended to:

1. Examine the structure of language and its role in communication,

2. Explore how children acquire language,

3. Study how the skills of second-language speakers develop,

4. Investigate how the social or cultural environment interacts with language,

**5.** Develop a strong foundation in the structure of language and its role in communication,

6. Gain practical knowledge through clinical observations, and

7. Complete qualifications that provide access to accreditation in Adult ESL through TESL.

**History**

The tradition of applied linguistics established itself in part as a response to the narrowing of focus in linguistics with the advent in the late 1950s of [generative linguistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generative_linguistics), and has always maintained a socially-accountable role, demonstrated by its central interest in language problems. Although the field of applied linguistics started from Europe and the United States, the field rapidly flourished in the international context.

During the late 1950s and the early 1960s, the use of the term was gradually broadened to include what was then referred to as 'automatic translation'. In 1964 following two years of preparatory work financed by the Council of Europe, the the International Association of Applied Linguistics usually referred to by the French acronym AILA was founded and its first international congress was held in Nancy, France. Papers for the congress were solicited in two distinct strands—foreign language teaching and automatic translation.

Applied linguistics first concerned itself with principles and practices on the basis of linguistics. In the early days, applied linguistics was thought as “linguistics-applied” at least from the outside of the field. In the 1960s, however, applied linguistics was expanded to include language assessment, [language policy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_policy), and second language acquisition. As early as the 1970s, applied linguistics became a problem-driven field rather than [theoretical linguistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theoretical_linguistics), including the solution of language-related problems in the real world. By the 1990s, applied linguistics had broadened including critical studies and multilingualism. Research in applied linguistics was shifted to "the theoretical and empirical investigation of real world problems in which language is a central issue."

In the United States, applied linguistics also began narrowly as the application of insights from structural linguistics—first to the teaching of English in schools and subsequently to second and foreign language teaching. The *linguistics applied* approach to language teaching was promulgated most strenuously by [Leonard Bloomfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonard_Bloomfield), who developed the foundation for the [Army Specialized Training Program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Army_Specialized_Training_Program), and by Charles C. Fries, who established the English Language Institute (ELI) at the [University of Michigan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Michigan) in 1941. In 1948, the Research Club at Michigan established *Language Learning: A Journal of Applied Linguistics*, the first journal to bear the term *applied linguistics.* In the late 1960s, applied linguistics began to establish its own identity as an interdisciplinary field of linguistics concerned with real-world language issues. The new identity was solidified by the creation of the American Association for Applied Linguistics in 1977.

**The Scope of Applied Linguistics**

 The scope of applied linguistics includes:

Language Acquisition (L1 and L2), Psycho / Neuro -linguistics, Language Teaching, Sociolinguistics, Humor Studies, Pragmatics,  Discourse Analysis / Rhetorics, Text / Processing / Translation, Computational Linguistics – Machine Translation, Corpus Linguistics, Language Control/Dialectology.

Beside the above explanation about the scope of applied linguistics, there are some other disciplines:

**1. Language and Teaching**

This scope covers methods of language teaching. In doing teaching learning activity, linguistic is applied on those methods.

**2. Language and Society**

The branch in this scope is called sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistic studies about the relationship between the society and language, and explore/solve the problem related to society that affects the language, varieties of language in society, terms of taboos and euphemism, etc.

**3. Language Education/Learning**

This scope tries to explain about the first language education, additional language education such as second language education and foreign language education. It also help us to know about clinical linguistic and language testing. Clinical linguistic is the study about language disability.

**4. Language, Work and Law**

The scope of Language, Work and Law explain about communication in the workplace, language planning and forensic linguistic.

5. Language, Information and Effect

It studies the literary stylistics, critical discourse analysis, translation and interpretation, information design, and lexicography.