

# GLOSSARY

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It is sometimes suggested that the terminology, or 'jargon', of modern linguistics is unnecessarily complex. This is a criticism which need not detain us long. Every science has its own technical vocabulary: it is only because the layman takes on trust the established sciences, and especially the 'natural' sciences, that he does not question their right to furnish themselves with special vocabularies. The technical terms used by linguists arise in the course of their work and are easily understood by those who approach the subject sympathetically and without prejudice. [John Lyons (1968) – *Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press.]

## A

- ablaut** Vowel alternation resulting from a change in grammatical function, e.g. *drive* vs. *drove* (cf. **umlaut**).
- abscissa** The X-axis (cf. **ordinate**).
- absolutive** A case in **ergative** languages that is reserved for the object of transitive verbs or the subject of intransitive verbs (cf. **ergative**).
- ABX identification task** In this task, stimuli are presented in triads, and the subject has to indicate whether the third sounded more like the first or the second.
- accent** Pitch movements at stressed syllables in an utterance (cf. **stress**).
- accent d'insistence**
- accidental clicks** Unintended clicks caused by movements of the articulators from one sound to the next.
- accommodation** A phonological process according to which segments that are shifted or deleted are accommodated to their new environment. In the speech error *easy enoughly* for instance, the word *easy* is pronounced as *easy* and not as *easuh* as you would expect when only the suffix is taken away.
- acronym** A word made up of the first letters of a group of words, e.g. *NATO*.
- action verbs** Verbs denoting some actual behavior of some animate being, e.g. *to run, to look* (cf. **change of state verbs**).
- active voice** A grammatical construction in which the agent is encoded as the subject and the patient is encoded as the object, e.g. *the girl read the book* (cf. **passive voice, middle voice**).
- acute accent** A tonal pattern in the Scandinavian languages usually on monosyllabic words, e.g. *and*, or on polysyllabic words with final stress, e.g. *universitet*, (cf. **grave accent**).
- addresses** Kinship terms, titles, proper names. In many languages they have other forms than when they are used as referent terms.
- adjacency pairs** Pairs of reciprocally related utterance turns, e.g. a question and an answer, a request and an agreement, etc.
- adjunct** The part of a noun phrase (N'') that modifies the noun and its complement (N'), e.g. *from Cambridge in a student of linguistics from Cambridge*. Adjuncts can occur prenominal (also referred to as **attribute**), or postnominal. It can be a prepositional phrase, a clause, a noun phrase, or an adjectival phrase (cf. **complement**).
- adpositions** Prepositions or postpositions.
- adversative conjunctions** Conjunctions that express a contrast, restriction or correction, e.g. *but, although*.
- affix** A small word which is conjoined to another word and cannot be used in isolation (cf. **particle**).

**agglutinative language** Languages in which affixation does not involve phonological changes at morpheme boundaries, resulting in a transparent word structure (cf. **fusional languages**). An example of an agglutinative language is Turkish.

**agreement** The systematic covariance between a semantic or formal property of one element and a formal property of another, e.g. subject – verb agreement.

**algorithm** A set of mechanical instructions.

**aliasing** The incorrect determination of the signal frequency due to an insufficient sample frequency.

**allative** Case that indicates *motion to*.

**allomorphs** The free variations of a single morpheme.

**allographes**

**allophones** The free variations of a single phoneme.

**alphabetic writing systems** Writing systems in which a symbol corresponds roughly to a phoneme, e.g. the Roman alphabet (cf. **ideographic writing systems**).

**alternants** Variations of phonemes, morphemes, or words.

**alternation causatives** Verbs which can be used both as a **causative** and as a non-causative, e.g. *to break* (cf. **suppletive causatives**).

**alternative questions** Questions in which the speaker gives a number of alternatives, e.g. *is it blue or red?*.

**amalgams** e.g. *wented*.

**Amarinja** A Semitic language spoken by approximately 60 million people in Ethiopia.

**ambiguity** The case that a sentence or a word has more than one meaning, e.g. *bank*.

**ambisyllabic consonant** A consonant which belongs to the **coda** of the first syllable as well as to the onset of the second syllable, as in *rokken* → *ro(k)en* (cf. **tautosyllabic consonant**).

**anacolutha** Broken up sentences, e.g. because the speaker is under pressure.

**analytic causatives** Verbs that are made causative by means of a ‘causative auxiliary’ such as *to make, to let, to force*, etc. (cf. **lexical causatives**).

**analytic language** See: **isolating language**.

**anaphoric reference** An expression (a **reflexive** or **reciprocal**) that refers back to an object or a person that has been mentioned earlier (the **coreferential noun phrase** or **antecedent**), e.g. *itself* in *the cat licks itself* (cf. **cataphoric reference, exophoric reference**).

**anomalous sentences** Sentences that are (semantically) strange, e.g. *the TV is watching the football game*.

**antecedent** See: **anaphoric reference**.

**antepenultimate** The second but last position.

**anticipatory assimilation** See: **assimilation**.

**antipassive** A construction in **ergative** languages that turns a transitive verb into an intransitive verb. The subject of the new construction is marked **absolutive**, and the object is either omitted or demoted to an **oblique**.

**antonym** Words that differ from each other in the respect of negation (e.g. *black* and *white*, *good* and *bad*) or contradiction (e.g. *man* and *woman*). A distinction is made between **contradictory antonyms** – words for which the negation of one necessarily implies the other (e.g. *alive* and *dead*) – and **contrary antonyms** – words for which the negation of one does not necessarily imply the other (e.g. *good* and *bad*).

**anusvara** A rule in Sanskrit which deletes *m* before a semi-vowel or a fricative and lengthens and nasalizes the preceding vowel.

**apherisis** The removal or fall of a sound or word, as in Swedish where the auxiliary is often omitted in a subordinate clause, e.g. *jag tror att jag (har) fått nog*.

**appendix** A number of coronal consonants which can be added to the coda of a syllable in Dutch, e.g. *leuk-st*.

**appositive clause** A postmodifying clause such as *that he had resigned* in *the news that he had resigned came as a complete surprise*.

**approximants** A class of consonants including semi-vowels, non-fricative laterals, and r-glides.

**arguments** The nouns or noun phrases that 'go with' a verb. For instance, the verb *to give* has three arguments: a subject, a direct object, and an indirect object.

**articulation rate** Words, syllables or segments per unit time.

**articulatory precision** The realization of a phoneme in relation to a target. Articulatory precision is inversely related to fluency.

**ascription** The part of a quote that precedes or follows the quotation, e.g. the driver said in "*Are you ready?*", *the driver said*.

**aspect** Aspect expresses the way in which a speaker describes a situation, e.g. ongoing, achieved, etc. (cf. **tense**).

**aspirated stops** Stop consonants of which the noise burst is supplemented by a certain amount of glottal friction.

**assertives** An utterance that can be (more or less) true or false, e.g. *today is Tuesday*. The illocutionary verb associated with this speech act is typically *to believe*.

**assertoric utterances**

**assibilation** The phenomenon that a stop consonant changes into a sibilant.

**assimilation** Consecutive phonemes sometimes have contradictory articulation places (e.g. an alveolar stop followed by an interdental fricative as in *width*). In these cases, one of the two phonemes can adapt its place of articulation to that of the other one. There are two possibilities: The first one adapts its place of articulation to the second one (**regressive** or **anticipatory assimilation**) or the second phoneme adapts its place of articulation to the first (**progressive assimilation**).

**associative priming** The facilitation effect that an object is recognized faster when an associated object has been presented at an earlier stage during the experiment, e.g. the word *war* is recognized faster when the subject has heard the word *peace* earlier.

**assonance** Vowel rhyme, e.g. *night* and *bike*.

**asyndetic clauses** Clauses that are not connected by the conjunction *and* as in *he came, sat down, watched television*. This type of clauses is very common in Arabic (cf. **syndetic clauses**).

**atelic verbs** Verbs which do not have a well defined end point but describe activities which can go on continuously, e.g. *to walk* (cf. **telic verbs**). When the meaning of the verb implies that an activity goes on continuously, the verb is said to be inherently atelic. Atelic verbs are also called **durative** verbs. You could also say: atelic verbs denote one state, whereas telic verbs denote two states.

**attribute** See: **adjunct**.

**attributive constructions** A construction that states some kind of attribute of a person or thing e.g. *it was too hot* (cf. **identifying construction**).

**attributive modifiers** Adjectives, demonstratives, adverbs, articles, numerals and possessives.

**auditory naming** Speeded repetition of single words (cf. **shadowing**).

**augmentatives** (cf. **diminutives**).

**auslautverhärtung** Devoicing obstruents at the ends of syllables or words.

**AX discrimination task** In this task the subject hears two stimuli, and has to decide whether or not the second stimulus is different from the first one.

## B

**backward masking** The effect that a stimulus is recognized more slowly when it is immediately followed by another stimulus.

**balanced ambiguous words** Ambiguous words of which the meanings are approximately equally frequent (cf. **unbalanced ambiguous words**).

**bandwidth** The frequency band in which the amplitude is less than 3 dB below the maximum amplitude.

**Bantu** An African language family, spoken over most of eastern and southern Africa.

**bare nominal** A nominal construction without a **determiner**.

**bare verb** A verb without any prefixes or suffixes.

**base** A general term indicating either **root** or **stem**.

**behabatives** Standard expressions used to apologize, congratulate, curse, etc.

**benefactive** The term used to indicate the indirect object in an **ergative** language (e.g. *Jane* in *Pete gave Jane a cactus*). An alternative term is **modalis**.

- BEV** Black English Vernacular.
- biliteracy** Proficient reading in more than one language.
- blends** Speech errors resulting from the contamination of two conceptually related words, e.g. *flaste* instead of *taste* or *flavor*.
- bogus clusters** Consonant clusters that look like good onsets but which in word medial position are separated by a syllable boundary, e.g. *knie* vs. *ak-ne*.
- bottom up processing** Processing without making use of contextual information, e.g. locating word boundaries in the speech signal only on the basis of acoustic information (cf. **top down processing**).
- bound morphemes** Morphemes that have to be attached to words, e.g. plural *-s* (cf. **free morphemes**).
- bound stems** Stems that can only occur in combination with an affix, as *ject* in *reject*.
- bound stress languages** Languages in which it is possible to predict which syllable of a word carries stress, e.g. Hungarian, Czech or Polish (cf. **free stress languages**).
- boundary tones** Pitch movements accompanying rhythmic discontinuities at the phrase edge (cf. **pitch accents**). Boundary tones are often written as H% or L%.
- broken plurals** Plural forms in Arabic that are not marked by concatenative morphology, but instead by vowel alternation in the stem.

## C

- Cantonese** Variety of Chinese, mainly spoken in the South of China (cf. **Mandarin**). Although speakers of Cantonese and Mandarin use the same written characters they are not able to understand each other's spoken language.
- cardinals** The whole numbers: *one, two*, etc. (cf. **ordinals**).
- case relations** Roles that noun phrases associated with a verb play with respect to the state, action, or process named by the verb. The following six roles are distinguished: *agentive, experiencer (patient), goal (benefactive), instrumental, locative* and *objective* cases. There can never be more than one instance of every case relation in a proposition.
- case markers** Word endings that signal the syntactic case of a word, e.g. *des Mannes* in German.
- catalexia** The omission of an unaccented syllable at the end of a verse line.
- cataphoric reference** A form of reference where a linguistic expression refers to information that has not yet been introduced (cf. **anaphoric reference, exophoric reference**).

**catch trials** Filler stimuli in a perception experiment that serve to distract the subject's attention from the goal of the experiment and that keep them concentrated.

**catenative verbs** Verbs that are pronounced together with other small words (e.g. *gonna, wanna*, etc.).

**causatives** Verb that expresses an action that a subject performs on an object, e.g. *he opened the door* (cf. **suppletive causatives, alternation causatives, analytic causatives, lexical causatives**).

**causative alternation** See: **linking rules**.

**cepstrum** A spectrum of a spectrum: a graph showing the frequency of the formants in a spectrum.

**cerebrals**

**change of state verbs** Verbs that denote the change of state of an object, such as: *to break, to melt*, etc. (cf. **action verbs**). In principle, change of state verbs can be **causative** or **non causative**.

**circumflex accent** See: **grave accent**.

**citation form** Isolation.

**classifier** A small word or affix to denote some kind of property of invariable nouns, e.g. whether it is male or female (according to some theories, classifiers are the origin of grammatical gender), or what is the shape of an object. Examples of classifier languages are Japanese, Yucatec Mayan and Sesotho.

**classifying genitive** A genitive construction that indicates an attribute of the following noun, e.g. *cows' milk* (cf. **specifying genitive**).

**clause** A sentence which has a subject and a verb (cf. **phrase**).

**cleft sentence** A complex sentence consisting of an identifying main clause with a dummy subject (e.g. *it*), and a relative clause that gives some kind of definition, e.g. *it was a sherry that Tom offered Sue*, or *C'est lui qui a fait cela* (cf. **pseudo cleft sentences**).

**clitic** Phonologically weak forms of function words (e.g. *'t, 'm*, etc. in Dutch, *-que* in Latin, or genitive *'s* in English), which become attached to a preceding or following word (**host** or **anchor** sometimes through a process of resyllabification) (cf. **cliticization**).

**cliticization** The phonologic or syntactic process of giving a clitic more stress by adding a consonant of an adjacent word (resyllabification), e.g. *hij zegt 't* → *hij zeg-t't* or by changing its position in the sentence, e.g. *je vois l'ami* → *je le vois*.

**closed-class words** The words in a language that belong to a relatively small group that cannot be extended easily: determiners, conjunctions, pronouns, etc. They have a higher frequency of occurrence than **open-class words**.

**cloze test** A test that consists of filling in gaps within sentences or at the end of sentences. When the likelihood of the completion is very high, the cloze probability is said to be high (as in *het is hier niet warm maar ...*). When

there is no likely completion, the cloze probability is said to be low (as in *hij zei dat hij ...*).

**coarticulation** The articulators (tongue, lips, velum, etc.) move from one position to another. Because they can, to some degree, move independently the movements that are necessary for the production of a phoneme may overlap with those for the production of another one. The result of this is overlap is a change in the acoustic realization of each phoneme depending on its context (cf. **assimilation**).

**coda** The consonants in a syllable that come after the vowel.

**code mixing** The use of elements or structures from two or more languages in the same utterance (cf. **code switching**).

**code switching** Changing from one language to another in a **diglossic** community (cf. **code mixing**).

**cognate verbs** Verbs from which other verbs (in other languages) are derived.

**cognates** Words that have the same source or origin.

**cohesive ties** Structures in discourse which connect one exchange to the next. Examples of cohesive ties are repetitions and pronominal reference.

**cohort** All the words that begin in a particular way are accessed but drop out as soon as the words becomes unique.

**collective nouns** Nouns that indicate more than one object, e.g. *furniture*.

**collective plural** A grammatically singular noun which refers to more than one entity, e.g. *the gang, the choir* (cf. **pluralia tantem**).

**collocates** See: **collocations**.

**collocations** Regular combinations of words, or words that tend to co-occur, e.g. *false alarm* or *by accident*.

**comment** The part of a sentence that tells something about the subject (cf. **predicate, rheme**).

**commission errors** Word order errors in children's speech.

**commissives** Utterances that express the speaker's commitment to do something in the future, e.g. *tomorrow I will go to Amsterdam*. Examples of commissives are promises, vows, guarantees. A typical illocutionary verb associated with this speech act is *to promise*.

**common gender** See: **utrum gender**.

**common nouns** Words that stand for concrete objects, animals, vehicles, body parts, furniture, toys, food, etc. The term **common noun** is used to distinguish it from **proper noun** (the names of animals or persons).

**communicative competence** The knowledge of the linguistic code plus the knowledge of language use.

**comparative linguistics** The study of the origins of different languages.

**competition** The process of mutual inhibition as soon as more than one node is activated and only one node can remain activated (*'winner-take-all-competition'*).

**complement** The part of a noun phrase (N'') that modifies the noun (N) most directly and therefore is closest to the noun, e.g. *of linguistics* in *a student of linguistics*. Complements can occur pre- and postnominally. They can be clauses or prepositional phrases (cf. **adjunct**).

**complement clause** A clause that functions as the complement of a noun, e.g. *whether euthanasia is ethical* in the sentence *the question whether euthanasia is ethical*.

**complementary distribution** When two allophones of a single phoneme appear in a language, but only in different contexts they are said to appear in complementary distribution, for instance, in German, the velar fricative occurs only following a back vowel as in *lacht*, and the palatal fricative only follows a front vowel, as in *licht* (cf. **free variation**).

**complementary questions** A question that has the same function, but lacks the form of a *wh*-question, e.g. *And if I don't want to?* instead of *What happens if I don't want to?*.

**complementizer** A particle that introduces a complement clause, such as *that* or *whether*.

**completive aspect** Verb inflection that denotes that an activity has been completed.

**complex prepositions** Combinations of words which as a whole function as a preposition, e.g. *in spite of* or *on top of* (cf. **collocations**).

**complex verbs** Prefix verbs and particle verbs. The counterpart of complex verbs are **simplex verbs**.

**compositional expressions** Expressions for which the meaning is a function of its parts, e.g. *vorige maandag* (cf. **idiomatic expressions**).

**compounds** Combinations of two or more (potentially) open-class items, e.g. *black board*, *blueberry* (cf. **coordinate compounds**).

**compound bilingualism** Two languages which are acquired simultaneously (parallel acquisition), (cf. **coordinate bilingualism**).

**concord** See: **agreement**.

**configurational languages** Languages that have a strict word order, e.g. English (cf. **nonconfigurational languages**).

**congruent prime** A prime that carries potentially helpful information (cf. **incongruent prime**). Another term used is **valid prime**.

**conjugation** A class of verbs that have the same inflections (cf. **declension**).

**conjunction** A word that connects two sentences, e.g. *and*, *because*.

**conjuncts** Sentences or phrases combined by *and* (cf. **disjuncts**).

**connectives** Words that connect sentences, e.g. *if*, *when*.

**connegative** An obligatory second negation marker, such as *pas* in French.

**connotation** All the associated things that a word can refer to (cf. **denotation**).

**conservative testing** Testing a hypothesis in a condition that doesn't make it easy to confirm the hypothesis.

**consonant harmony** Agreement in respect of one or more features between consonants that are not adjacent to one another (cf. **vowel harmony**).

**consonant system** The consonants that occur in a language. On average, languages have about 23 consonants, ranging from 6 to 95.

**constituent** The units of which phrases are built.

**contentives** See: **open-class words**.

**contour tones** A changing tone in a tone language, e.g. rising, falling, dipping (cf. **level tones**).

**contradictory antonyms** See: **antonyms**.

**contrary antonyms** See: **antonyms**.

**converbs** See: **coverbs**.

**conversions** See: **zero derivations**.

**convolution** The mathematical operation used to combine two signals.

**coordinate bilingualism** When a second language is learned after (part of) another language has been learned (cf. **compound bilingualism**).

**coordinate compounds** Compounds that consist of two or more components from the same word class.

**copular verbs** Verbs that describe a state, e.g. *to be*, *to seem*, or that describe the result of a change, e.g. *to become*, *to make into*.

**core syllable** The most frequent syllable in languages, the CV syllable.

**core meaning** The most salient component of the meaning of a word.

**coreferential noun phrase** See: **anaphor**.

**count nouns** Nouns that refer to discrete individuals (cf. **mass nouns**).

**coverbs** A number of non-finite verbs put together usually to express a complex event. The last verb in the row is inflected. Coverbs occur e.g. in Tamil.

**cranberry collocations** Expressions that include items which are unique to the string (as *cran* in *cranberry*), e.g. *to and fro*.

**creole** A **pidgin** that, in the course of time, has become a new native language, e.g. the English-based creole of Jamaica, the English-based Tok Pisin ('Talk Pidgin'), the French-based creole of Haiti, or the German-based creole Yiddish.

**cue words** See: **discourse markers**.

**culminative stress** Stress that always falls on the same syllable in the word, as in Polish, Hungarian, or French (cf. **bound stress languages**).

**cybernetics** The science of communication and control in machines and animals (including man).

## D

**dative shift** Alternation between indirect object and oblique, as with the verbs *to give*, or *to send*.

- declarations** Utterances that bring about a new state of affairs, e.g. *I hereby open the meeting*. Most declarations are specialized for use within a particular cultural system or institute, such as employment, the church, law or government. The typical illocutionary verb that is associated with this speech act is *to declare*.
- declarative knowledge** A compilation of propositions stored in Long-Term Memory, e.g. *Milk is drinkable, To stay in a hotel costs money, Russian Roulette is a dangerous game*, etc.
- declarative questions** Questions that are lexico-syntactically identical to statements.
- declarative sentences** Statements.
- declension** A class of nouns which have the same endings in a case system (cf. **conjugation**).
- declination** Gradual decrease of the fundamental frequency during the production of an utterance.
- definite nominal** A nominal construction with a definite determiner.
- deictic expressions** Words which refer to place, time, persons, objects, e.g. *here, now, that, then, I, it*, etc., and therefore their interpretation is highly context dependent (cf. **deictic shift**).
- deictic perspective** Description of a situation, an image or an object from a distant point of view.
- deictic shift** The idea that **deictic expressions** such as *here* and *there* have no stable meaning but refer to more than one thing.
- deixis** A sentence with the form *that's a . . .*
- delta pulse** A sound which is (theoretically) infinitely short and has infinitely much energy.
- denominal nouns** Nouns derived from other nouns, e.g. *wetenschapper*.
- denominal verbs** Verbs that are derived from a noun, e.g. *a laugh - to laugh*. Note that in English denominal verbs have stress on the second syllable whereas the noun that it is derived from has stress on the first syllable, e.g. *to perVERT* vs. *a PERvert*. Denominal verbs occur often as innovatives in child language.
- denotation** All the possible things a word could refer to (cf. **connotation**).
- deontic use of modals**
- deponent verbs** Passive verbs with an active meaning, e.g. *hoppas* in Swedish.
- derivation** The making of a new lexeme through the addition of a grammatical characteristic, e.g. turning a verb (*to speak*) into a noun by adding the affix *-er, speaker* (cf. **inflection**).
- derivatives** Derived words.
- descriptive negation** Giving a negative response because you think that the previous statement wasn't true (cf. **metalinguistic negation**).
- determiner** Prenominal modifiers, including articles, possessives, demonstratives, interrogatives, and quantifiers.

**deterministic signals** Signals which are predictable, e.g. a sine wave, a power of  $e$  (cf. **stochastic signals**).

**deverbal nouns** Nouns derived from verbs, e.g. *schaker*.

**dialect** Variety of a standard language due to regional variation (cf. **sociolect**).

**differentiation** The number of words in a given domain, for example colors, birds, vehicles, etc.

**diglossia** The situation in which two languages exist simultaneously, each with its own function (e.g. Luxemburgish and German in Luxembourg).

**diminutives** (cf. **augmentatives**).

**diphone** The transition from one sound to the next.

**direct voice** A grammatical construction similar to **active voice** (cf. **inverse voice**).

**directives** Utterances that express a speaker's will that the receiver does something, e.g. *go brush your teeth*. Requests and questions are the two main types of directives. Illocutionary verbs that are typically associated with this speech act are *to command*, *to want*, etc.

**dis legomena** The words that occur twice in a given text (cf. **hapax legomena**).

**discontinuous constituent** A linguistic unit in a sentence that is separated, e.g. *picked up* in *He picked the book up*.

**discourse markers** Small words, such as *yes*, *hm*, *but*, etc., that are used to structure a conversation.

**disjuncts** Sentences or phrases combined by *or* (cf. **conjuncts**).

**displacement** A property of language which says that the meanings expressed in language are independent of the actual situation of use, so that communication is not limited to 'here and now'.

**dissimilation** A phonological process which removes repeated phonemes, e.g. *marbre* in French becomes *marble* in English.

**distal** Away from the speaker (cf. **proximal**).

**distributional regularity** The words in a sentence are those sound patterns which occur relatively frequently and in a variety of contexts.

**ditransitive verbs** Verbs which require both a direct and an indirect object, e.g. *to give*.

**ditto questions** Questions that are repetitions on request of the speaker's own question, for example when the listener asks for that.

**double determination** The co-occurrence of two definite articles, e.g. the combination of a free and an affixed article in Swedish, as in *den vitta stenen*.

**durative verbs** See: **atelic verbs**.

**duty cycle** The percentage of time the glottis is open during each vibratory cycle.

**dyadic predicates** See: **transitive verbs** (cf. **monadic predicates**).

## E

- echo question** Questions that repeat a question for confirmation, e.g. (*You ask me*) *Am I coming?*
- elative** A locative relation expressing the directional notion of 'out of'.
- elision** The coalescence of two vowels which causes one of the two to disappear (e.g. *ce est* → *c'est*).
- ellipsis** The omission of one or more words, so an elliptic utterance is an incomplete utterance.
- emphatic consonants** Front consonants which are produced with a depressed and retracted tongue. Emphatic consonants occur in Arabic only in combination with a back vowel. Therefore the 'emphasis' can be seen as a form of coarticulation. The symbol for emphasis is a dot under the consonant: /ḅ ʔ̣ ʕ̣/.
- enclitic** A clitic which occurs on the right side of its host, e.g. 't in *ziet 't* (cf. **proclitic**).
- endocentric compounds** Compounds that have the same syntactic function as one of their components, e.g. *black board* or *sight seeing*. The component that determines the compound's function is called the **center** of the compound (cf. **exocentric compounds**).
- endocentric constructions** Constructions that consist of an obligatory head with one or more optional elements. For instance, the construction *wet paint* is an endocentric construction, with the noun *paint* as its head, and the adjective *wet* as an optional element.
- engma** Another word for the velar nasal.
- entailment** The relation between two sentences that says that if sentence A is true, sentence B is necessarily also true. Sentence B does not convey *any* information that is not conveyed by sentence A (cf. **presupposition**).
- entropy** The statistical principle that states that within a system there are always more ways the items can be disordered than that they can be ordered.
- epistemic expressions** Expressions that indicate whether the speaker believes that an assertion is true or not, e.g. *I think that, I am not sure whether*, etc.
- epistemology** A set of beliefs about the nature of science, for instance, the belief that science should produce knowledge that serves people, not just knowledge for its own sake.
- eponym** A word derived from a proper name, e.g. *braille, joule, frisbee, sadism*, etc.
- ergative** A case in some languages that is reserved for the subject of transitive verbs (cf. **absolutive**).
- In some languages the object of a transitive verb has the same case as the subject of an intransitive verb: the **absolutive**. The subject of a transitive verb has a different case which is called the **ergative**. Examples of ergative languages are Basque, Inuktitut, and some Australian languages (cf. **split ergative**).

**ethnonym** The name of a nation, e.g. *Turks, Arabs*.

**etymology** The science of word histories.

**Euclidian space**

**exclusive or (“xor”)** When *or* is used exclusively, one of the two propositions that it connects might be true but not both, as the following (ungrammatical) example illustrates: *if the door is locked or unlocked go find the key* (cf. **inclusive or**).

**exclusive pronoun** A first person pronoun that refers to the speaker and a third person but not to the addressee (cf. **inclusive pronoun**).

**existential clause** A clause with a postponed subject e.g. *there are two birds in the tree*. The additional subject *there* is called the **formal subject**. The postponed subject *birds* is called the **real subject**. The function of an existential clause is to avoid beginning the sentence with an indefinite noun, or to emphasize the subject.

**exocentric compounds** Compounds that do not have the same syntactic function as their components, e.g. the Chinese compound *open-closed* which means *switch* (cf. **endocentric compounds**).

**exophoric reference** Constructions that refer to someone or something outside the discourse. This type of reference is common in spoken language, where, for instance, *I* and *you* refer to the speaker and the listener, but not to something in the conversation (cf. **anaphoric reference, cataphoric reference**).

**expansions** Complete and correct versions of children’s telegraphic utterances (cf. **recast versions**).

**expletive subjects** Subjects that do not refer to a person or an object, e.g. *it* in *it rains*.

**explicit memory** Conscious recall of previous events (cf. **implicit memory**).

**expository prose** Text material in which the writer or speaker aims to describe or explain something (cf. **narrative prose**).

**expressive children** Children preferring words that mark actions, social interactions or individuals (cf. **referential children**).

**expressives** Utterances that express the psychological state of the speaker, e.g. *I’m afraid I will be late*. Congratulations, apologies, and thanks are expressives. Typical illocutionary verbs associated with this speech act are *to be afraid, to feel*, etc.

**extension** The items that belong to a certain category (cf. **intension**).

**extensions** Utterances which incorporate the child’s topic, but add new information.

**extraposed constructions** Syntactic constructions where the subject of the sentence is a dummy subject, and the real subject is in a complement clause, e.g. saying *it is easy to sing* instead of *singing is easy*.

## F

**figurative language** The use of terminology based on similarity in shape, function, constituency, or an outstanding part of the object, e.g. *de neus van de schoen, vuurwater*.

**finite clause** A clause which contains a finite verb. There are two types: **subjunctive** and **indicative clauses**.

**finite verbs** Verbs which are - overtly or covertly - marked for tense or agreement (cf. **non-finite verbs**).

**Finnno-Ugric languages** See: **Uralic languages**.

**first Germanic sound shift** A consonant change, also known as Grimm's Law, that occurred in the Germanic languages but not in other members of the Indo-European family. One consequence of this change is that many words that have a voiceless stop in Latin, Greek or Sanskrit, e.g. *pater*, have a voiceless fricative in Germanic languages, e.g. *father* (cf. **second Germanic sound shift**)

**fixed expressions** Holistic units of two or more words, e.g. *of course* or *so long*.

**focal colors** The colors which are most representative for a color category ('the most bluish blue' etc.).

**foot** A unit that contains a prosodic contrast, usually a stressed and one or more unstressed syllables. A foot that contains at maximum two syllables is called a **bounded foot**. A foot that contains more than two syllables is called an **unbounded foot**.

**formal compounds** Words that behave like compounds (for instance because they have a stress pattern that is similar to that of a compound) but cannot be decomposed into elements in a transparent way.

**formal language** A language with a hypothetical (artificial) grammar (cf. **natural language**).

**formal subject** See: **existential clause**.

**formant** The resonance frequencies of the vocal tract. The formants correspond to the peaks in the envelope of the spectrum. They are not necessarily the harmonics with the highest amplitude.

**formatives** The parts in which words can be divided.

**fortis consonants** The phonological term for voiceless consonants or for those behaving like voiceless consonants. Fortis consonants are also referred to as **tense consonants** (cf. **lenis consonants**).

**fossilization** The phenomenon that learners of a second language stop short of achieving native-like performance.

**fragment priming paradigm** An experimental paradigm in which the subject hears a part of a word, and then does a lexical decision on the whole word. For example: the subject hears *con* and then does lexical decision on the word *control*.

**frame** The part of a sentence that is used as the point of departure for the rest of the sentence. E.g. *this morning* in *this morning, I woke up at eight o'clock*. The part *I woke up at eight o'clock* is called the **insert**.

**free morphemes** Morphemes that are not attached to words (cf. **bound morphemes**).

**free stress languages** Languages for which it is not possible to predict the position of the stressed syllable in a word, e.g. English (cf. **bound stress languages**).

**free variation** The context-independent distribution of allophones, e.g. /r/ and /R/ in Dutch (cf. **complementary distribution**).

**frozen compounds** e.g. *uniform*.

**fugitive vowels**

**full verbs** See: **light verbs**.

**function words** See: **closed-class words**.

**functional load** The importance of a distinction, e.g. the contrast *b - d* has a higher functional load than the contrast *th - dh* because it occurs more frequently.

**fusional languages** Languages in which there is not a one-to-one correspondence of meaning and affixes, e.g. *-o* in Spanish expresses simultaneously first person, singular, and present tense (thus the meanings are fused). Other examples of fusional languages are Russian, Polish, and Latin.

## G

**Ganong effect** The effect when listeners hear an ambiguous speech sound in a string which could either be a real word or a non-word depending on this speech sound (e.g. *teep - deep*), they are more likely to identify the phoneme that forms the existing word. This effect suggests that there is top-down influence on phonetic perception.

**gapping** Omitting a word or a constituent in a sentence leaving a gap.

**garden path sentences** Sentences that lead the listener to a wrong track, e.g. *Eat people eat accumulates* (cf. **locally ambiguous sentences**).

**gating task** Listeners are presented with an increasing part of a word and they have to guess what the whole word is.

**gemination** A doubling of a consonant, as in the Latin word *duplus* which became *doppio* in Italian.

**gender** The term used to indicate a category of nouns that have the same property which shows up in the behavior of syntactically associated words (determiners, adjectives). Traditionally, the distinction is being made between masculine, feminine, and neuter gender. However, in languages with more than three genders (e.g. Bantu languages) the genders are often labeled 1, 2, 3, etc.

**generativity** The notion that an infinite number of utterances can be produced and comprehended on the basis of a relatively small number of rules.

**generic propositions** Propositions that relate to all the members of a group, e.g. *All dogs have ears*.

- genoyms** Words derived from geographical names, such as *edammer*, *frankfurter*.
- ghost vowels** Vowels which appear in one form of a word but disappear in another form of the same word.
- globally ambiguous sentences** Sentences which are ambiguous and remain ambiguous after their completion, e.g. *it is too hot to eat* (cf. **locally ambiguous sentences**).
- go-no-go experiment** An experiment during which the subjects have to respond to target items but not to filler items.
- grammatical case** Case that marks the syntactic function of a noun rather than the semantic function (cf. **oblique case**).
- grammatical words** See: **closed-class words**.
- grave accent** A tonal pattern in the Scandinavian languages usually on polysyllabic words with initial stress, e.g. *ande*, but sometimes also on monosyllabic words, in which case it is also referred to as **circumflex accent** (cf. **acute accent**).
- Grimm's law** See: **first Germanic sound shift**.

## H

- hapax legomenon** A word that occurs only once in a text.
- haplogogies** Speech productions where a speaker omits a part of an utterance usually because that part contains a combination of speech sounds that is relatively hard to articulate. Haplogogies sometimes are speech errors (e.g. *post toasties* becomes *poasties*), but often they occur in normal speech (e.g. *post station* is produced as *postation*). Certain morphological processes, (e.g. the genitive *-s* in English is not produced after most plural nouns because these end on *s*) can be described as haplogogies.
- heavy syllables** Syllables which consist of more than one **mora**. In phonological theory, heavy syllables are those that contain either a long vowel (as the first syllable in *bacon*), or a short vowel followed by a tautosyllabic consonant (as the first syllable in *bunker*). Heavy syllables always carry stress (cf. **light syllables**).
- heavy verbs** Verbs that are specified as to the object properties of their arguments. Suppose, there were two different verbs one indicating *reading a book*, the other indicating *reading the newspaper*.
- hedge expressions** Words or expressions that avoid giving direct answers, e.g. *can*, *may* or *there is a chance*.
- heteronyms** Different words that mean the same thing, e.g. *bluff*, *clump* and *grove* for *group of trees* (cf. **synonyms**).
- heuristics** Method of solving problems through the evaluation of past experience, and movement by trial and error towards a solution.

**hirakana** The Japanese characters used for writing verb endings, particles, etc.  
See also: **kana**.

**historical present**

**holonym** A word that denotes thing that can be divided into smaller parts, e.g. *book* is a holonym of *page* (cf. **meronym**).

**homographs** Words that are spelled the same but which are not necessarily pronounced the same, e.g. Dutch *voorkomen* (to prevent) and *voorkomen* (to occur), or English *lead* (dog lead) and *lead* (the metal).

**homonyms** Words which are spelled and pronounced identically but which have different meanings, e.g. *zijn* as in *moe zijn* and *zijn boek* (cf. **synonyms**). Words are homonyms more often than you think.

**homophones** Words that are pronounced the same way, e.g. *bare* and *bear* or *weak* and *week*.

**homorganic speech sounds** Speech sounds with the same place of articulation, e.g. /m/ and /p/.

**honorifics** Morphemes that encode a social distinction, e.g. the suffix *-san* in Japanese.

**host** The word to which a **clitic** attaches.

**hybrid** A word with parts from different languages, e.g.

**hyperonym** A word that denotes a term at a higher level in a semantic hierarchy, e.g. *dog* is a hyperonym of *boxer* (cf. **hyponym**).

**hypocoristic affixes** Affixes that turn proper names into **hypocoristics**, e.g. *-y* as in *Jenny*.

**hypocoristics** Pet-forms of proper names, e.g. *Betty* for *Elizabeth*.

**hyponym** A word that denotes an exemplar of a category, e.g. *boxer* is a hyponym of *dog* (cf. **hyperonym**).

## I

**iambus** A weak–strong pattern as in the word *balloon* (cf. **trochee**).

**ideational content** See: **propositional content**.

**identifying construction** A sentences that states the identity of an object or person, e.g. *it was a book* (cf. **attributive construction**).

**identity priming** The facilitation effect that an object is recognized faster when that object has occurred at an earlier stage during the experiment.

**ideographic writing systems** Systems that use a picture or ideogram to denote an entire concept. These systems consist of huge numbers of signs to cover the vocabulary. Chinese is an example of a language with an ideographic writing system (cf. **pinyin**). In a way, numbers are also ideograms (cf. **alphabetic writing systems**).

**idiolect** The linguistic behavior of an individual (cf. **sociolect**).

**idiomatic expressions** Expressions for which the meaning cannot be derived from the meaning of the combination of words that comprise it, e.g. *een blauwe maandag* (cf. **compositional expressions**).

**idiomatic prepositions** Prepositions that do not have a conceptual specification, but instead are used idiomatically, such as *for* in *he was waiting for the bus*.

**illative** A locative relation expressing the directional notion of 'into'.

**illocutionary acts** See: **speech acts**.

**illocutionary force** The purpose of a sentence.

**illocutionary verbs** Verbs that explicitly indicate the kind of speech act. Examples of these verbs are *to insinuate, to announce, to promise, to command*, etc. See also: **assertives, directives, commissives, expressives** and **declarations**

**imperfective aspect** Inflection of a verb that denotes whether an activity has been completed or not (completive or incompletive aspect).

**implicatures** Inferences based on the context of what has been said and on assumptions about ordinary verbal communication.

**implicit memory** Change in behavior due to previous events which might not be recalled consciously (cf. **explicit memory**).

**implicit priming paradigm**

**implosives** Stop consonants which are realized by lowering the velum, thus allowing air to flow through the nasal cavity.

**inchoative verbs** Verbs that denote a change of state which is beginning to take place, e.g. *to soften, to whiten* (cf. **alternation causatives**).

**inclusive or** When *or* is used inclusively both propositions that *or* connects might be true, as in the following example: *if it rains or snows take an umbrella* (cf. **exclusive or**).

**inclusive pronouns** A first person pronoun that refers to the speaker and the addressee (cf. **exclusive pronouns**).

**incongruent prime** A prime that carries potentially misleading information (cf. **congruent prime**). Another term used is **invalid prime**.

**incorporation** The phenomenon that a single word contains more than one lexical root.

**indefinite nominal** A nominal construction with an indefinite determiner.

**indexical information** Information encoded in speech about age, gender, cultural background, temperament, etc.

**indexicals** Utterances that contain a **deictic expression**, e.g. *that is my book*.

**indicative clauses** Finite clauses with a variable verb.

**Indo European languages**

**inflecting languages** See: **fusional languages**.

**inflection** The addition of an affix to a word resulting in a change of number, tense or aspect, e.g. plural *-s*, past tense *-ed* (cf. **derivation**).

**informant presentation** The (hypothetical) situation that language input consists of grammatically correct *and* incorrect sentences together with the information which sentence is correct and which is not (cf. **text presentation**).

**informants** Informants are the people who give information about topics in language (e.g. *women talk more than men*) on the basis of which conclusions are drawn about the general attitude in a population (cf. **raters**).

**initiate** An utterance that prospectively sets up expectations about the next one, e.g. a question which calls for an answer (cf. **respond**).

**insert** See: **frame**.

**intensifier**

**intension** The definition of a category or the criteria for membership to that category (cf. **extension**).

**interrogative sentences** Questions.

**intrinsic perspective** The description of a situation or an image as if the describer were part of this situation.

**invalid prime** See: **incongruent prime**.

**inverse voice** A grammatical construction similar to **passive voice** (cf. **direct voice**).

**ISI** Inter-Stimulus-Interval.

**isoglosses** Geographical boundaries between language varieties.

**isolating languages** Languages with relatively little internal word structure (**bound morphology**), e.g. Chinese or Vietnamese (cf. **polysynthetic language**).

**iteration**

## J

**jitter** Rapid fluctuations in frequency.

**jussives** Commands, e.g. *Do not feed the dog*.

## K

**kana** The Japanese characters used for writing. There are 114 characters and each character corresponds to a **mora**. Kana are the basic characters children learn in kindergarten. Later the system is elaborated using other characters (cf. **katakana**, **kanji**, **hirakana**).

**kanji** The Chinese characters used by the Japanese. Every character represents one or more morae. Kanji is mainly used by well-educated people (cf. **katakana**, **kana**, **hirakana**).

**katakana** The Japanese characters that are used for writing foreign names (cf. **kana**, **kanji** and **hirakana**).

**kun** The Japanese pronunciations of Japanese characters (cf. **on**).

## L

**land mark colors** The most prevalent colors in human languages. It is hypothesized that the colors appear in the following order: *black, white, red, green, yellow, blue, brown*. That is: if a language has a word for green, it is likely to have words for black, white and red also. These are also the colors that children learn first (cf. **secondary colors**).

**language attrition** The phenomenon that one loses (parts of) a language when one doesn't use it for a long time, for example after emigrating to another country.

**language family** A set of languages that have a common ancestor (e.g. the Romance or the Germanic languages).

**language isolates** Languages that are not related to any other language, e.g. Basque, Japanese and Korean. They are also called **linguistic orphans**.

**lax consonants** See: **lenis consonants**.

**learnability theory** The theory that deals with the question whether language is a too complicated system to be learned without a hypothesized innate component.

**lemma** Set of grammatical features which characterize a word, e.g. is it a noun, a verb, etc.

**lenis consonants** The phonological term for voiced consonants and for those that behave as voiced consonants. Lenis consonants are also referred to as **lax consonants** (cf. **fortis consonants**).

**lenition** Phonological reduction.

**level tones** A 'flat' tone in a tone language: high, mid or low (cf. **contour tones**). Level tones are also called **register tones**.

**lexeme** An abstract word used for composition, derivation or inflection, more or less the word as it is listed in a dictionary.

**lexical access** The process by which individual words are recognized from the speech stream. Lexical access takes place the moment a speech signal activates an entry in the lexicon (cf. **lexical retrieval**).

**lexical categories** A subclass of the **syntactic categories** including nouns, prepositions, verbs, adjectives (and adverbs).

**lexical causatives** Verbs which are causatives by their meaning, e.g. *to turn on* (cf. **analytic causatives**).

**lexical competition effect** Target items in a word spotting experiment are detected faster when they have relatively few competitors (words that become also activated) than when they have relatively many competitors.

**lexical concepts** Concepts for which we have words, e.g. *left* and *right*.

**lexical decision task** A subject has to decide whether a visually or an auditorily presented stimulus is an existing word or not.

**lexical density** The proportion of lexical words that are found in a text. The higher this proportion, the higher is the density. Lexical density can be used to differentiate spoken from written language: written language is relatively dense, whereas spoken language is relatively sparse (cf. **lexical pitch**).

**lexical diffusion**

**lexical entry** The parts of which the lexicon is built of. Lexical entries are usually words but can also be affixes, particles, idiomatic expressions.

**lexical intrusion**

**lexical pitch** Variation in word choice and frequency of word types depending on readers' or listeners' knowledge of the subject, language skill, kind of text or conversation, etc. High lexical pitch refers to the occurrence of relatively many infrequent words whereas low lexical pitch refers to the occurrence of relatively many frequent words. In general, written texts have higher lexical pitch than conversations (cf. **lexical density**).

**lexical prosody** The pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a word. Lexical prosody does not have an impact on lexical access (cf. **metrical prosody**).

**lexical retrieval** The process that takes place after **lexical access**. It is assumed that information that is not yet available during lexical access (for instance lexical stress pattern) becomes available during lexical retrieval.

**lexical stress** Stress that changes the meaning of the word when it shifts to another position.

**lexical words** See: **open-class words**.

**light syllables** Syllables that consist of only one **mora**. In phonological theory, light syllables are those that contain a short vowel and no coda (as the first syllable of *beckon*). Light syllables can have stress (cf. **heavy syllables**).

**light verbs** Verbs which can be used in many different contexts, e.g. *to do* as in *to do the laundry*, *to do shopping*, etc. (cf. **full verbs**).

**linearization** The act of putting the elements of an utterance in a specific order.

**lingua franca** The language adopted to communicate in a region where several languages are spoken (e.g. English in India).

**linguistic determinism** The idea that the structure of thought is determined by the structure of language, in other words, that the two are isomorphic. A weaker form of this hypothesis, **linguistic relativity**, states that differences between languages cause differences among the thoughts of their speakers.

**linguistic orphans** See: **language isolates**.

**linguistic relativity** See: **linguistic determinism**.

- linking morpheme** A morpheme that connects two other morphemes, e.g. *s* in *bruidsboeket*.
- linking rules** Rules that relate semantic aspects of a word to syntactic aspects of that word. For instance, verbs that express direct causation (e.g. *to break*) have a causative **alternant**, whereas verbs that express indirect causation (e.g. *to laugh*) do not. Consequently, it is possible to say *he broke the glass* but not *he laughed the audience*.
- locally ambiguous sentences** Sentences that are ambiguous up to a certain point, but the ambiguity is resolved by the remainder of the sentence, e.g. *fat people eat accumulates* (cf. **globally ambiguous sentences**).
- locative verbs** Verbs (usually **transitive**) that denote object movement from one place to another, e.g. *to put something away* (cf. **spatial verbs**).
- locution** Utterance.
- logographic writing systems** Writing systems in which a symbol represents a word or a morpheme, e.g. Chinese.
- ludlings** Language games.

## M

- Mandarin** Variety of Chinese, mainly spoken in the North of China (cf. **Cantonese**).
- mapping rules** Rules that group strings (sentences) into units (constituents).
- marginal vowels** Vowels that are not really in the native language vowel system, but occur only in loan-words.
- masked priming paradigm** In this experimental setup, primes are presented very briefly and then immediately masked by the target.
- mass nouns** Nouns that refer to atomless things, such as materials, substances, e.g. *air, paper* (cf. **count nouns**). They often occur as bare nominals.
- maximal onset principal** The preference to assign consonants to the onset of the following syllable rather than to the coda of the previous syllable.
- mean word frequency** The number of word tokens,  $N$ , divided by the number of word types,  $V$  (cf. **type-token ratio**). Note that a lower mean word frequency indicates a greater vocabulary (assuming that  $N$  is constant).
- meronym** A word that denotes a part of a bigger thing, e.g. *finger* is a meronym of *hand* (cf. **holonym**).
- metalinguistic negation** Giving a negative response not because you think that the previous statement was untrue but e.g. because you didn't like the way the statement was made (cf. **descriptive negation**).
- metathesis** The phenomenon that two sounds take each other's position, e.g. *berm – brem*.
- metonymy** A speech figure that consists of the substitution of a concept with a related concept, e.g. *Proust is hard to read*, where the writer's work is replaced by the writer himself.

- metrical prosody** The pattern of strong and weak syllables in a word. Metrical prosody has an impact on lexical access: when it is disrupted, recognition performance decrements (cf. **lexical prosody**).
- middle voice** A construction between **active** and **passive voice**. In this construction, the subject of the sentence is the patient undergoing an action. The action is expressed as a reflexive verb, e.g. *a bras se casse facilement*.
- mispronunciation detection** Subjects listen to stimuli and press a button as soon as they hear a mispronunciation.
- modal adverbs** Adverbs that express the speaker's attitude with respect to the truth of the expression's content, e.g. *perhaps, of course*, or (in Dutch) *zeker, toch, wel*.
- modal auxiliaries** Auxiliaries that express the belief or attitude of the speaker: *can, will, shall, may, must*, etc. Modal auxiliaries do not get verb agreement for the third person singular, and do not have a gerund or a participle.
- modalis** See: **benefactive**.
- modifiers** The items that can surround the head of a phrase (and which are themselves also phrasal constituents): complements, adjuncts and specifiers.
- monadic predicates** See: **intransitive verbs** (cf. **dyadic predicates**).
- monomorphemic words** Words that do not contain an affix.
- mood** Verbal categories such as indicative, subjunctive, imperative, optative. Nowadays some of these categories are often replaced by the use of a modal auxiliary.
- mora** A subsyllabic unit in Japanese corresponding to a symbol in the writing system (cf. **kana**). The Japanese syllable structure can be V, CV, CVC or CVV (where the syllable-final consonant is a nasal or a geminate). The mora can be a vowel, an onset-vowel sequence, or a nasal. The word *honda*, for example, consists of three morae, *ho-n-da*; the word *nissan* consists of four morae, *ni-s-sa-n*.
- moribund languages** Languages which are likely to be extinct because they are spoken by adults only.
- morphophonemic variation** The different phonological realizations of a morpheme, e.g. the realization of plural *-s* in *cats* and in *dogs*.
- multiple agreement** The case that a verb does not only agree with the subject, but also with the direct object and/or the indirect object. Multiple agreement is a typological characteristic of Basque.

## N

- narrative prose** Text material in which the writer or speaker aims to tell a story (cf. **expository prose**).

**nasal effacement** A phonological process that makes a nasal consonant disappear when it precedes a voiceless fricative, e.g. *gans* → *goose* or *fünf* → *five*.

**natural class** A set of speech sounds that behaves similarly, for instance in historical sound change, e.g. the rounded vowels.

**natural language** One of the languages spoken in the world (cf. **formal language**).

**negative evidence** The grammatically incorrect sentences that the language learning child is exposed to as examples of what sentences should *not* be like. Negative evidence is assumed to be absent in language acquisition (cf. **positive evidence**).

**neutral affixes** Affixes with an invariant vowel (cf. **non-neutral affixes**).

**neutrum gender** Non-masculine or non-feminine gender (cf. **utrum gender**).

**nomen agentis** A noun that denotes an agent. Typical examples are nouns derived from verbs, such as *runner*, *actor*, *warrior*, etc. (cf. **nomen patientis**).

**nomen patientis** A noun that denotes a patient (cf. **nomen agentis**).

**nominalizations** Nouns derived from verbs or adjectives, e.g. *civilization* derived from *civilize*, or *kindness* is derived from *kind*.

**nominal modifiers** Optional constituents in a noun phrase that modify the noun: determiners, complements, attributes, adjuncts.

**nonconfigurational languages** Languages that do not have a strict word order, e.g. Malayalam, Arabic (cf. **configurational languages**).

**noncount nouns** See: **mass nouns**.

**nonfinite verbs** Verbs which are not marked for tense or agreement, in general these are: infinitive forms, gerunds and forms of the participle (cf. **finite verbs**).

**nonneutrum gender** See: **utrum gender**.

**nonneutral affixes** Affixes with a variable (harmonic) vowel (cf. **neutral affixes**).

**notional number** The conceptual number to which a noun (grammatically singular or plural) refers.

**noun incorporation** The incorporation of a noun into a verb. What you get is a (intransitive) verb that denotes both the object and the action.

**noun phrase** A constituent consisting of an obligatory noun plus a number of optional elements, attributes, adjuncts, complements. Notation: NP or N' or  $\bar{N}$ .

**nucleus** The vowel in a syllable.

**null subjects** Subjects that are not represented as a lexical item but which are explicited e.g. by verb agreement (cf. **overt subjects**).

**nyquist frequency** Half the sample frequency.

## O

- oblique case** Case that marks the semantic function of a noun rather than the syntactic function (cf. **grammatical case**).
- obstruents** Nonsonorant consonants: fricatives and stops (including: implosives, ejective stops, clicks, fricatives, ejective fricatives, affricates, ejective affricates, affricated clicks).
- obviative morphology** Morphology that indicates that a noun or a pronoun is in some sense not salient in that part of the text (cf. **proximative morphology**).
- offglides** Diphthongs that consist of a relatively stable first part, followed by a dynamic second part (cf. **onglides**).
- offset latency** The time difference between the offset of the stimulus and the response of the subject (cf. **onset latency**).
- on** The Chinese pronunciation of Japanese characters (cf. **kun**).
- onbin** A historical change in Japanese which combined two light syllables into one heavy syllable.
- onglides** Diphthongs that consist of a relatively dynamic first part, followed by a relatively stable second part (cf. **offglides**).
- onomatopoeic words** Words that sound like the things to which they refer, e.g. *cuckoo*.
- onset latency** The time difference between the onset of the stimulus and the response of the subject (cf. **offset latency**).
- opaque** Which is unclear (cf. **transparent**).
- open-class words** The words in a language that belong to a large group that can be extended relatively easily: nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs (cf. **closed-class words**). Open-class words can be common but more often are rare.
- opens** Words in child language that can occur in various positions (cf. **pivots**).
- ordinals** The numbers showing order in a series: *first, second*, etc. (cf. **cardinals**).
- ordinate** The Y-axis (cf. **abscissa**).
- origo** See: **temporal adverbials**.
- oronyms** Stretches of speech that can be divided in more than one way, e.g. *ice cream - I scream*.
- overextension** A semantic error in children's early productions, when they apply a word to members of the adult category *and* to members of categories that are similar in appearance, shape or (sometimes) function (e.g. *ball* for *balls, apples* and *the moon*). Two kinds of overextension are distinguished: **over-inclusion** (when the child uses a term for other entities of the same taxonomy) and **analogical extension** (when the child uses a term for objects from other taxonomies on the basis of perceptual similarity (cf. **underextension**)).

**overt subjects** Subjects that are present in the form of a noun construction or a pronoun (cf. **null subjects**).

**oxytones** Words that do not have stress on the first syllable. In the Germanic languages these are usually loan-words from the Romance languages.

## P

**palindrome** A word that reads backwards the same as forwards, e.g. *anna* or *σοφος*.

**Panini effects** Effects observed by the linguist Panini that in fixed word combinations, high vowels usually come first (*dit en dat*), and that the word with the least syllables comes first (*wis en waarachtig*).

**paradigmatic relation** The relation between units (phonemes, words) which can occur in the same context (cf. **syntagmatic relation**).

**paralinguistic features** Features whose arrangement in contrastive patterns in the time dimension is not restricted to single segments and which are used to indicate emotional and attitudinal aspects of communication (cf. **prosodic features**).

**paraphasia** The substitution of a word for another, wrong word for the word required.

**paratactic conjunction**

**parsing** Attaching the right syntactic structure to a sentence.

**partitive noun phrase** A noun that indicates the part of a whole, e.g. *some children, a few books*.

**particle** A small word which is conjoined to another word but can also be used in isolation (cf. **affix**).

**particle verbs** Verbs with a prefix which is sometimes separated from the verb, e.g. *uitglijden* (cf. **prefix verbs**).

**passive voice** A grammatical construction in which the agent is encoded as the object and the patient is encoded as the subject, e.g. *the book was read by the girl* (cf. **active voice, passive voice**).

**perceptual confusion** The likelihood with which sounds are confused with one another.

**perfective aspect** Inflection of a verb that denotes that the activity has been completed.

**performative verbs** Illocutionary verbs that occur in **performatives**. They can be preceded by the adverb *hereby*, e.g. *to declare*.

**performatives** Utterances that accompany some kind of action, e.g. *I hereby declare you husband and wife*.

**periphrastic** A construction which has to be expressed using a separate word, e.g. negation in English has to be expressed by means of a periphrastic *do*-construction, as in *she likes me – she doesn't like me*. The opposite of periphrastic is morphological.

- pharyngealization** Concavity of the tongue blade with simultaneous backward pull of the tongue dorsum towards lateral pharyngeal wall at various points.
- phatic utterances** Utterances that serve as openings for a conversation, e.g. *excuse me...*
- philology** The science or study of the development of language or of a particular language.
- phonation modes** E.g. modal, breathy, strident, epiglottal.
- phoneme monitoring** An experimental paradigm during which subjects listen to words or nonwords and press a button every time they hear a specific phoneme. A distinction is made between **standard phoneme monitoring**, during which phonemes always occur at a fixed place in the items (e.g. always item initial), and **generalized phoneme monitoring**, during which the phonemes can occur anywhere.
- phonemic coalescence** A historical process which merged two distinct sounds or pronunciations (cf. **phonemic split**).
- phonemic paraphasia** A speech error in aphasia that consists of the omission, addition or substitution of a single phoneme (cf. **verbal paraphasia**).
- phonemic restoration** A phoneme which has been replaced by noise (a cough or a buzz) is not perceived as missing. Subjects think they have heard the phoneme, and think the noise was on the background.
- phonemic split** A historical process whereby allophones developed into different phonemes (cf. **phonemic coalescence**).
- phonestemes** A phoneme or a cluster of phonemes that is shared by a group of words which have some element of meaning in common (e.g. *fl* denoting movement in English, or *kl* denoting sound in Dutch. Phonestemes occur frequently in commercial names.
- phonetic symbolism** The idea that certain speech sounds are associated with specific notions. E.g. /i/ is associated with small things whereas /o/ is associated with big things.
- phonological misselection** A speech error that consists of producing a word that is similar in sound to the target word but not in meaning, e.g. *participate* for *precipitate*.
- phonological neutralization** In a certain condition different manifestations of a single phoneme are not realized, e.g. the difference between /t/ and /d/ at the end of words in Dutch.
- phonological rules** Rules that carry out a specific set of operations that modify sequences of sounds.
- phrase** A part of a sentence that functions as a unit and can be split up into one or more constituents, one of which is the head (e.g. a noun is the head of a noun phrase, NP).
- phrase marker** A visual representation of the syntactic structure of a clause (a tree diagram).
- phrase structure rules** Rules that specify the deep structure of a sentence.

**phyla**

**picture-word interference paradigm** An experimental paradigm in which a subject sees a picture and simultaneously (or somewhat later or earlier, cf. **SOA**) hears a word. The presentation of the word causes a delay in the naming of the picture.

**pidgin** A language that emerges when a subordinate and a dominant culture meet, usually for specific purposes, such as trade (the word *pidgin* comes from the Chinese word for *business*). The pidgin has features of both languages (cf. **creole**).

**pinyin** The spelling of Chinese using the standard Western alphabet.

**pitch accents** Pitch movements anchored to focussed words in an utterance (cf. **boundary tones**). Pitch accents are often written as L\* or H\*.

**pivots** Words in child language that occur in fixed positions (cf. **opens**).

**pluralia tantem** A grammatically plural noun that refers to a singular object, e.g. *scissors, trousers* (cf. **collective plural**).

**point vowels** The vowels at the edges of the vowel space: /i a u/.

**polarity** The characteristic of an utterance that determines whether it is positive or negative.

**pole** A spectral peak (cf. **zero**).

**polysemy** When a word has several meanings which are (metaphorically) related, e.g. *arm* as in *the arm of a river* or *the arm of a person*. Some word classes are very susceptible to polysemy, e.g. prepositions.

**polysynthetic language** A language in which one word of several morphemes can express what would require a sentence of several individual words in an **analytic** language. An example of a polysynthetic language is the Eskimo language Inuktitut.

**portmanteau morpheme** A morpheme that indicates several things, e.g. modality, person, and number. E.g. *-s* in English denotes third person, singular, and present tense.

**positive evidence** The grammatically correct sentences that a language learning child is exposed to as 'examples' of what sentences are supposed to be. Positive evidence is assumed to be 'poor' (cf. **negative evidence**).

**postpositioning** Moving a constituent to the right of its original place.

**post tonic position** Unstressed position.

**praeterite** Simple past tense, e.g. *sang* in *John sang a song*.

**pragmatics** The way language is integrated into the ongoing nonlinguistic and conversational contexts.

**predicate** The part of a sentence that says something about the subject. In case the verb is a **copula** (*to be, to become*) the predicate is the complement of that copula, e.g. *ill* in *John is ill*. In case the verb is not a copula, the predicate is the verb, e.g. *has* in *John has a book*.

**prefix verbs** Verbs composed of a verb and a prefix that is not separable from the verb, e.g. *weerhouden* (cf. **particle verbs**).

- prelexical processing** The processing necessary for lexical access: how is the speech information processed in order that contact can be made with stored lexical knowledge: it takes place *on* the speech signal *before* lexical access.
- prepositioning** Moving a constituent to the left of its original place.
- presupposition** The statement that you take for granted when hearing another statement. For example, if someone says '*was it John who got an A for his test?*' you take it for granted that someone got an A for his test (cf. **entailment**).
- pretonic position** Secondary stress.
- priming** The facilitation effect that a previous encounter with an object has on the identification or the processing of a new object. The previous encounter may not be recalled consciously. In experiments priming usually results in faster reaction times.
- primitives** An undecomposable element, e.g. a phoneme, a syllable or a morpheme.
- private verbs** e.g. *to think, to feel* (cf. **public verbs**).
- probe-latency test** A test in which a subject's response latency to a probe word is measured. In such a test, for instance, the subject could first hear a sentence, followed by one word from that sentence. The subject's task is to say what the next word in the sentence was.
- process verbs** Verbs that express an action, e.g. *to walk, to read*. Process verbs can take a progressive and an imperative tense (cf. **state verbs**).
- proclitic** A clitic which occurs on the left side of its **host**, e.g. *je* or *le* in *je le vois* (cf. **enclitic**).
- prodrop language** A language in which pronouns are often omitted, e.g. Italian.
- productive affixes** Affixes that can easily be combined with word stems. E.g. the Dutch suffix *-heid* can be combined with a lot of noun stems, e.g. *geelheid, hardheid*, etc., whereas the suffix *-te* cannot: *\*geelte, \*hardte* are not possible.
- productivity** The notion that people and especially children are creative in producing sentences. They can make sentences they have never heard before.
- progressive aspect** Inflection of a verb that denotes that an activity is extended in time (durative).
- progressive assimilation** See: **assimilation**.
- progressive demasking** An experimental paradigm in which a written word is alternated by a number of hashes (#). Gradually the time that the hashes mask the word decreases and the word becomes visible progressively. The subjects' task is usually to identify the word but it can also be **lexical decision** or **word spotting**.
- projection** The expansion of certain syntactic categories into a phrase, e.g. a noun into a noun phrase.

- projection problem** The problem that a language learner has to induce a set of rules (a grammar) on the basis of a finite number of data (utterances) that can account for an infinite number of utterances.
- promoted object** An object that changes into a subject, as is the case in passive constructions.
- pronominal** A pronoun that may or may not refer to a noun phrase in the same sentence.
- pronouncement** A statement that is not the answer to a question, but comes 'out of the blue'.
- proper nouns** Names of people, places, months, events. In contrast to **common nouns**, proper nouns are usually not premodified by determiners.
- proposition** The pieces of information that are conveyed through an utterance.
- propositional content** The sum of the propositions in a sentence.
- prosodic features** Features whose arrangement in contrastive patterns in the time dimension is not restricted to single segments and which are used to mark lexical and grammatical differences (cf. **paralinguistic features**).
- prospective force** The degree to which an utterance wants to be followed by a second utterance. For instance, *solicits* have strong prospective force, whereas *acknowledges* have little or none.
- prothesis** The insertion of a speech sound before another one, e.g. the insertion of *e* before a word-initial *s* in Spanish.
- proto languages** Language ancestors: Indo European (Europe), Afro-Asiatic (Saharan Africa, Middle East), Dravidian (Asia), Altaic (Turkey, Mongolia, Central Asia, Siberia), Uralic, Eskimo-Aleut.
- protoword** A word of the child's own creation.
- proximal** Close to the speaker, (cf. **distal**).
- proximative morphology** Morphology that indicates that a noun or a pronoun is in some sense salient in that part of the text (cf. **obviative morphology**).
- pseudo cleft sentences** A complex construction consisting of an identifying main clause with a relative clause that gives some kind of definition, e.g. *what Tom offered Sue was a sherry* (cf. **cleft sentences**).
- pseudo prefixed words** Words that seem to begin with a prefix which in reality is part of the stem, e.g. *reindeer*.
- public verbs** e.g. *to say* (cf. **private verbs**).
- punctual verbs** See: **telic verbs**.

## Q

**quantifiers** Words like *more, most, two, few*, etc.

**quantitative sensitive languages** Languages that take syllable weight into account when assigning stress. An example of a quantitative sensitive language is English. An example of a quantitative insensitive language is Latvian. See also: **heavy** and **light syllables**.

**quirky subjects** Words that behave like grammatical subjects but which are morphologically marked otherwise. Quirky subjects occur for example in Icelandic, e.g. *her was helped* instead of *she was helped*.

**quotatives** Verbs that introduce a quotation, e.g. *say, shout, whisper*, or more recently *be like, go*.

**quoted questions** Questions that are reported in direct speech.

## R

**radical** The undecomposable part of a character in a **logographic writing system** such as Chinese. E.g. the Chinese character for *tree* is a radical which can be combined with another character to form *branch*. Chinese has 214 radicals. A radical on the left side of a character says something about the semantics of the character, whereas a radical on the right side says something about its phonology.

**radical speech sounds** Speech sounds produced with the root of the tongue.

**raddoppiamento sintattico** A rule of central and southern varieties of Italian that lengthens the initial consonant of a word if that word does not start with /s/ followed by another consonant, and the preceding word ends in a stressed vowel.

**raising verbs** Verbs that require a complement, and where the object of the verb is raised to the subject of the complement, e.g. *to believe*.

**raters** Raters are people who judge fragments of speech or language and in this way, function as a measurement device. Raters are used when objective measurement is impossible (cf. **informants**).

**reading** The interpretation of an expression.

**real questions** Information-seeking questions to which the speaker does not have the answer (cf. **report questions**).

**real subject** See: **existential clause**.

**recast versions** Repetitions of the child's sentence in a new syntactic form (cf. **expansions**).

**reciprocals** Words like *each other, elkaar, varann*, indicating a mutual activity as in *zij wassen elkaar* (cf. **reflexives**).

**reclamatory questions** Questions that call for a repetition of something that was previously said, e.g. *What did you say?*. These include the questions *wh*-questions with the interrogative pronoun '*in situ*', e.g. *You did what?*.

**recursivity** Recursivity means that a grammatical unit in a tree structure occurs as part of the same unit at a lower hierarchical level, e.g. a sentence in a sentence.

- reduced relatives** Relative clauses without the relative pronoun, e.g. *the fossile examined in the laboratory*.
- referential children** Children preferring common nouns or general nominals as their first words (cf. **expressive children**).
- reflex questions** Questions that repeat a preceding nonquestion, e.g. *John is coming?* after the statement *John is coming*.
- reflexives** Words like *yourself, themselves, itself, zich*, referring back to the subject as in *zij wassen zich* (cf. **reciprocals**).
- register** A special language variety shared in a recurrent communication situation (e.g. occupation) by a group of people (e.g. surgeons, jazz fans). It is mainly characterized by a typical vocabulary, but also by its own intonation, syntax, phonology (cf. **style**).
- register tones** See: **level tones**.
- regressive assimilation** See: **assimilation**.
- reiterant speech** Speech in which every syllable is replaced by one recurring syllable.
- relational words** Words of which the meaning is determined by a set of entities. For instance, a verb that has several arguments, or a preposition that needs a ground and a figure.
- relative clause** The part of a complex sentence that starts with a relative pronoun, e.g. *that I had to stay home* in *I had such a headache that I decided to stay home*.
- relexification** The introduction of a particular vocabulary in a different grammatical system.
- repair** A repeated utterance after a breakdown in conversation.
- repetition priming** Facilitation of word recognition because the same word has occurred before.
- report questions** Questions which comment upon the world and provide new information (cf. **real questions**).
- reported clause** The 'quoted' part in direct speech act, e.g. *shut up* in '*shut up*' *she said* (cf. **reporting clause**).
- reporting clause** The 'non-quoting' part in direct speech act, e.g. *she said* in '*shut up*', *she said* (cf. **reported clause**).
- representatives** See: **assertives**.
- reprise questions** Questions that are more or less verbatim repetitions of what has been said.
- respond** An utterance that retrospectively meets the expectations that were set up by a previous one, e.g. an answer following a question (cf. **initiate**).
- resyllabification** A change in syllable structure caused by the way of pronouncing an utterance, e.g. *ik-werk-e-raan* → *ik-wer-ke-raan*.
- reversals** Pairs of verbs that denote opposite motion or change in opposite direction, e.g. *to close* and *to open*.

- reversible sentences** Sentences in which the object and the subject can switch, e.g. *Harry met Sally*, but not *Sally reads a book*.
- rewrite systems** A system of rules that explain how (in a syntactic tree structure) terminal elements are derived from non-terminal elements.
- rheme** See: **theme**.
- rhyme** The part of the syllable consisting of the vowel (nucleus) and the following consonant(s).
- rhyme slang** A feature of the Cockney dialect in Britain that a word is replaced with another word or phrase that rhymes with the original, e.g. *apples and pears* instead of *stairs*.
- root** The part of a word that is left over when all derivational and inflectional affixes have been removed, e.g. *work* in *workers* (cf. **stem**).

## S

- s-aspiration** A sound change from *s* to *h* as in *semi* → *hemi* or *super* → *hyper*.
- sandhi** Assimilation at word boundaries.
- Saramaccans** A creole language with African roots spoken in Suriname.
- satellite framed languages** Languages in which the manner of motion is expressed in the verb, and path is expressed in a satellite, e.g. *hij rent voorbij* (cf. **verb framed languages**).
- scope** The part of a sentence to which a particle, an adverb or an adjective relates.
- scrambled objects** Objects that are moved away from the verb to the other side of an adverb or a negation (at a lower position), e.g. *Jan tekent een boom vaak* – *Jan tekent vaak een boom* – *Jan tekent de boom vaak* – *Jan tekent vaak de boom*.
- scrambling languages** Languages with relatively free word order, e.g. Latin. Usually these languages make use of extensive case markers to indicate the grammatical role of the elements in a sentence.
- second Germanic sound shift** The change of stops to fricatives (e.g. *dorp* – *dorf*) in High German (modern standard) German (cf. **first Germanic sound shift**).
- secondary colors** The colors that are not **land mark colors**, e.g. *purple, pink, orange, grey*, etc.
- selective adaptation** When a stimulus is presented repeatedly for some time, listeners become less sensitive to the characteristics of that stimulus.
- self-embedded sentences** Sentences with a relative clause inserted between the subject and the verb.
- semantic misselection** A speech production error that consists of the substitution of a word for a semantically related word, e.g. *contemporary* for *adjacent*.

**semantic primitives** Parts of the meaning of a word that cannot be subdivided into other meanings. For example, the meaning of the verb *to kill* can be subdivided into components such as *cause, not, alive*.

**semitones** A nonlinear scale which divides an octave into twelve distinct intervals. The difference between two frequencies ( $F1$  and  $F2$ ) in semitones can be calculated using the formula  $12 * \log F1/F2$ .

**serial verbs** A surface string of verbs or verb-like items which occur within what appears to be a single clause. Serial verbs occur in Mandarin Chinese, and in creole languages spoken in Suriname.

**shadowing** Repeating a speaker's sentences back as quickly as possible (cf. **auditory naming**).

**shimmer** Rapid fluctuations in amplitude.

**sigmoid** S-shaped.

**signature voices** Typical voices that belong to a real person or a fictitious character, e.g. the voice of Bugs Bunny.

**silent e** The *e* at the end of English words which is written but not pronounced, as in *phoneme*, etc.

**similes** Institutionalized comparisons signalled by *as* or *like*, e.g. *to live like a king*.

**simplex verbs** See: **complex verbs**.

**SOA** See: **Stimulus Onset Asynchrony**.

**sociolect** Variety of a standard language due to sex, profession, education, age (cf. **dialect**).

**sonorants** Nasals, liquids and glides (including: taps, flaps, trills, approximants).

**spatial verbs** Verbs (usually **intransitive**) that denote that someone or something is moving around (cf. **locative verbs**).

**specifying genitive** A genitive construction that indicates a possessive relation with the following noun, e.g. *John's book* (cf. **classifying genitive**).

**speech acts** The function that an utterance has, e.g. a command, a promise, a belief, etc. This function can be made explicit by means of an **illocutionary verb** but that is by no means necessary. In principle there are as many kinds of speech acts as there are illocutionary verbs in a language, but since some verbs can be grouped as to specific dimensions (e.g. *to command, to order, to request* etc.), they are often divided into the following five major classes: **assertives, directives, commissives, expressives** and **declarations**.

**spirantization** The phenomenon that an affricate changes into the corresponding fricative.

**split ergative** An **ergative** case that applies to nominals but not to pronouns.

**split-literate bilinguals** People who speak two languages but can only write one of them.

**spondee** A word with two strong syllables, e.g. *kaasboer*.

**spoonerisms** Speech errors, such as *fight a liar* instead of *light a fire*.

**Sranan** A creole language with African roots spoken in Suriname.

**standing ambiguity** See: **globally ambiguous sentences**.

**state verbs** Verbs that express a state, e.g. *to like*. Unlike **process verbs**, state verbs cannot take a progressive or an imperative tense.

**stem** The part of a word that is left over when inflectional affixes have been removed, e.g. *worker* in *workers* (cf. **root**).

**stimulus degradation** Degrading the physical appearance of a stimulus, for instance by reducing the contrast between the word and its background, or by rotating the word, or by rotating the word to an unusual angle.

**Stimulus Onset Asynchrony (SOA)** The time interval between the beginning of one stimulus (e.g. a prime) and a second stimulus (e.g. a target). A negative SOA indicates that stimulus A is presented earlier than stimulus B, whereas an SOA of zero means that the two were presented at the same time, a positive SOA means that stimulus A was presented later than stimulus B.

**stochastic signals** Unpredictable signals that can only be described in terms of statistical values (cf. **deterministic signals**).

**stød** Laryngealization in Danish found on the rhymes of stressed syllables that consist of a long vowel or a short vowel followed by a sonorant consonant.

**stray erasure** The general principle that elements that cannot be assigned to a structure are likely to be omitted.

**stress** An abstract property of a word in the lexicon giving one syllable more prominence than the other syllables usually through increased intensity or duration (cf. **accent, tone**).

**stress resyllabification** The preference to assign consonants to a stressed syllable rather than to an unstressed one (e.g. *a rec-ord* vs *to re-cord*).

**stress shift** E.g. *ponTOON* → *PONtoon* in *PONtoon bridge* to avoid two juxtaposed syllables with primary stress.

**stress-timed languages** Languages in which the time intervals between stressed vowels are roughly equal, e.g. English (cf. **syllable-timed languages**).

**structuralism** The emphasis to provide an analysis of the appropriate categories of description of the units of a language.

**style** Differences in the way of speaking that people adopt under certain circumstances, e.g. whispering in the library or in a museum (cf. **register**).

**subcategorization rules** The rules that specify the arguments that go with a verb.

**subject-prominent languages** Languages in which all sentences must have a subject, e.g. English (cf. **topic-prominent languages**).

**subjunctive clauses** Finite clauses with an invariable verb (in English but not in all languages).

**sublative** A locative relation expressing the directional notion of 'onto'.

- subset principle** When you have the choice between two rules, *A* and *B*, rule *A* creating a number of sentences that are a subset of the sentences that rule *B* creates, start by choosing rule *A* as the correct one.
- substrate** A characteristic in a language which originates from another language, and which is the consequence of close contact of the two languages. For instance, subject-verb inversion in French is a substrate from German.
- superessive** A locative relation expressing the positional notion of 'on top of'.
- superordinate** A word that denotes a category, e.g. *animal*, *weapon* (cf. **hyponym**).
- supine** A verb form similar to the past participle. In Swedish, this form is used as a past participle and goes with the auxiliary *to have*. The past participle, on the other hand, is used as an adjective and goes with the auxiliary *to be*.
- suppletion** The use of two or more distinct (phonetically unrelated) stems for the inflection of a single lexical item, e.g. *le* and *la* in French, or *gå* and *gick* in Swedish, or *good* and *better* in English.
- suppletive causatives** Causative verbs which have phonetically unrelated non-causative counterparts, e.g. *to eat* and *to feed* (cf. **alternation causatives**).
- svarabhakti vowel** The neutral vowel, schwa.
- Swahili** An African language with Bantu origin, but with Arab and Persian influence. It is the most widely spoken language in Africa. The Swahili word for *lion* is *simba* and the equivalent for *don't worry* is *hakuma matata*.
- switch reference** The phenomenon that a sentence consists of several clauses, one of which is independent, all the others being dependent. Switch reference is typical for the languages of Papua New Guinea.
- syllabicity** The status of a speech segment that says whether or not the segment can be the nucleus of a syllable or not. Usually, vowels are marked as [+syllabic] and consonants are marked as [-syllabic]. However, in some languages (e.g. Berber) the syllabic status of vowels can also be [-syllabic] and that of consonants [+syllabic].
- syllable onset** The part of the syllable preceding the vowel.
- syllable peak** The part of the syllable that is occupied by the vowel, or diphthong.
- syllable-timed languages** Languages in which the duration of syllables shows relatively little variation for instance because vowels are not likely to be reduced, or because the onsets and codas of syllables are relatively uniform, e.g. Spanish or French (cf. **stress-timed languages**).
- synalepha** The blending of a word-final vowel and a word-initial vowel.
- syncretism** The neutralisation of a grammatical distinction, e.g. the nominative – accusative distinction in neuter words in Latin, or the distinction between past and perfect tense in English, as in *I walked* and *I have walked*.
- syndetic clauses** Clauses that are connected by the conjunction *and*: *he came in and he sat down and he watched television* (cf. **asyndetic clauses**).

- synergistic sequences** Expansions of the speaker's own previous utterance.
- synonyms** Different words with the same meaning, e.g. *raam* and *venster* or *plag* and *zode*. Real synonyms are rare (cf. **homonyms**).
- syntactic categories** Word classes identified on the basis of syntactic (distributional) and morphologic regularities (e.g. *nouns, adjectives, adverbs, determiners*).
- syntactic illusions** See: **garden path sentences**.
- syntactic prose sentences** Sentences that are semantically uninterpretable, but are in accordance with the grammatical rules of the language.
- syntagmatic relation** The relation between a linguistic unit (word, phoneme) and its context (cf. **paradigmatic relation**).

## T

- taboo distortion** Tabooed words that are deliberately distorted, making it possible to use the word without actually saying it, e.g. *gosh* instead of *God*.
- tag question** A small question which emphasizes the preceding statement, e.g. *isn't it?*.
- tautosyllabic consonant** A consonant that belongs to one syllable only (cf. **ambisyllabic consonant**).
- taxonomic organization** An organization of objects that are of the same type, e.g. *dogs, cats, rabbits, etc.* (cf. **thematic organization**).
- taxonomy** A way of categorizing a field so that the categories do not overlap and cover the entire field.
- telic verbs** Verbs which have a well defined end point, they refer to an activity which stops at a certain moment e.g. *to reach* (cf. **atelic verbs**). When the meaning of the verb implies that an activity stops at a certain moment, the verb is said to be inherently telic. Telic verbs are also called **punctual verbs**.
- temporal adverbials** Adverbials used to describe properties (position, duration, number) of time spans. The **origo** of the adverbial can be deictic, calendric, durative, iterative, anaphoric.
- tense** Tense expresses the relation between the time of event and time of utterance (cf. **aspect**).
- tense consonants** See: **fortis consonants**.
- text presentation** The (hypothetical) situation that language input only consists of grammatically correct sentences (cf. **informant presentation**).
- thematic role** The function that an argument in a sentence can fulfill (agent, theme, instrument, locative). Thematic roles can be considered to be the counterparts of syntactic categories (subject or object).
- thematic organization** The grouping of objects that often occur within one event, or because of spatial or causal relations, e.g. *a spider and its web* (cf. **taxonomic organization**).

- thematic structure** The structure of a sentence depending on what is given and what is new information; what the speaker wants to be the subjects and the predicate; what the speaker wants to be the **frame** and what the **insert**.
- theme** The point of departure of a sentence, what the message is about. The theme usually comes first, as in *Stephen King's latest book has become a best-seller*. The rest of the sentence is sometimes referred to as the **rheme**.
- theta verbs** Verbs which have a direct or indirect object or both as argument. This opposes them to modal verbs or copula. The term stems from syntactic theory.
- tone** Contrastive fundamental frequency at word level without making a syllable more prominent than the other syllable(s) (cf. **stress**).
- tonal languages** Languages in which changes in pitch contour alter the meaning of a word. Tonal languages constitute over one quarter of the world's languages. An example of a tonal language is Mandarin Chinese.
- tonic position** Stressed position.
- tonogenesis** The development in tone languages of lexically distinct tones out of prior contrasts in voicing, e.g., *klaang* and *glaang* in Southern Kammu are both realized as *klaang* with different tones in Northern Kammu.
- top down processing** Processing with the use of additional knowledge, e.g. segmenting the speech signal making use of an available lexicon (cf. **bottom up processing**).
- topic position** The first position in a clause, e.g. *Paris* in *Paris, I have never been there*.
- topic-prominent languages** Languages in which sentences have a special position that is filled by the current topic of the conversation, e.g. Japanese (cf. **subject-prominent languages**).
- trace** When a word moves to a different position in an utterance it may leave a 'trace' (an inaudible copy of the moved phrase), which means it may cause restrictions on the insertion of new words at the original position. E.g. in the sentence *Who do you believe has met Mary* the word *who* is moved to the beginning of the sentence. It is however not allowed to put another subject just before the word *has*.
- transfer** The features of a first language that a learner applies when speaking a second language.
- transient** A changing sound, e.g. a click or a formant transition.
- transitive verbs** Verbs that take only one noun phrase complement, e.g. *to read*, *to see*.
- transparent** Which is clear (cf. **opaque**).
- trochee** A strong–weak pattern as in the word *cancel* (cf. **iambus**).
- tropes** Figures of speech.
- tutorial prompt** A language teaching strategy according to which an adult asks a child a question that he (the adult) already knows the answer to.

**type-token ratio** An index of the size of the vocabulary used in a corpus. The type-token ratio can be calculated by dividing the total number of word types by the total number of word tokens. A low type-token ratio indicates a restricted or repetitious vocabulary whereas a high type-token ratio indicates a diverse vocabulary (cf. **mean word frequency**).

**typological features** Features of a language that characterize a language or a group of languages, e.g. word order.

## U

**umlaut** A case of vowel mutation by which a stressed back vowel becomes fronted when followed by an unstressed front vowel, e.g. *tur* – *türchen* (G) or *foot* – *feet* (E) (cf. **ablaut**).

**unaccusative verbs** Intransitive verbs that usually have theme subjects and express change of state, existence: *to break, to die, to bleed*, etc. These verbs often have *zijn* as auxiliary in Dutch, e.g. *vallen*. The past participle of the verb can be used as an adjective (cf. **unergative verbs**).

**unambiguous words** Words that have one meaning only (cf. **ambiguous words**).

**unbalanced ambiguous words** Ambiguous words of which the meanings are highly discrepant in frequency (cf. **balanced ambiguous words**).

**underextension** When a child uses a category label for only a subset of the adult category, usually for a prototypical exemplar (cf. **overextension**).

**unergative verbs** Intransitive verbs that usually have agentive subjects and express volitional acts: *to sleep, to laugh, to fly*, etc. These verbs often have *hebben* as auxiliary in Dutch, e.g. *lachen*. The past participle of the verb cannot be used as an adjective (cf. **unaccusative verbs**).

**unheralded pronouns** Pronouns that do not refer to a previously mentioned object or subject.

**unitizers** Words that indicate amounts of substances, e.g. *a kilo, a liter, a cup, a teaspoon*, etc.

**universal grammar** The innate knowledge of principles of grammar.

**universal quantifiers** Quantifiers that denote a complete set, e.g. *all, every*.

**Uralic languages** Finnish, Hungarian, Estonian, Lappish, Samoyed.

**utrum gender** Non-neutrum gender, masculine or feminine gender.

## V

**valency possibilities** The potential to combine with other elements in a clause. The verbs *to start* and *to begin*, for instance, have the same valency possibilities, because they both can be used as either an intransitive or a transitive verb.

**valid prime** See: **congruent prime**.

**velar softening** Velar softening is the term applied to cases where the dorsal stops /k/ or /g/ change to apical obstruents /tʃ ts ʃ s/ or /dʒ dz ʒ z/ respectively, typically next to palatal (or labial palatal) vowels or glides such as /i, I, e, y, j/, e.g. *kin* in Old English became *chin* in Modern English. It is also referred to as **palatalization**.

**verb framed languages** Languages in which motion path is expressed in the verb, and manner is expressed in a separately, e.g. *il passe en courant* (cf. **satellite framed languages**).

**verbal paraphasia** A speech error in aphasia that consists of the substitution of an entire word (cf. **phonemic paraphasia**).

**verbal transformation effect** The effect that when the same word is played over and over again, it starts to sound very weird.

**vernacular** The local language, also used as an adjective, e.g. *a vernacular newspaper*.

**visarga** A rule in Sanskrit which turns *s* and *r* into a voiceless 'breathing' before a pause.

**vocabulary size** The number of different types (*V*) in a given number of tokens (*N*).

**vocalic alternation** Vowel change, as in *verband, verbond, verbind*.

**vocoid** A vowel-like speech sound.

**voice onset time (VOT)** The silent interval between the release of the occlusion of a stop consonant and the onset of the vibration of the vocal folds. Voiceless stops typically have long VOT, whereas voiced stops have a short, or even a negative VOT.

**voicing lag** A late onset of voice after the release of a stop consonant (cf. **voicing lead**).

**voicing lead** The onset of voice before the onset of a stop consonant (cf. **voicing lag**).

**volitional verbs**

**volitive directives**

**volitional agent** A subject who does something with intention.

**vowel harmony** A distinctive phonological patterning in which the vowels in a word share certain features (cf. **consonant harmony**).

## W

**word blending task** A psycholinguistic experimental paradigm during which subjects combine two words in order to make a novel (non-)word, e.g. *kang + sem* becoming *kam, kem, seng* or *sang*.

**word monitoring** The procedure in which listeners have to detect the occurrence of a target word in a series of sentences.

**word reconstruction task** In this task, listeners hear spoken nonwords that have been constructed to mismatch real words on a single segment, e.g. *teeble*. The listeners task is to reconstruct real words.

**word spotting** An experimental paradigm in which subjects have to identify real words embedded in (nonsense) words, e.g. *les* in *sles*.

## X

**xenonyms**

## Z

**zero** A dip in the spectrum (cf. **pole**).

**zero derivations** Derivations without affixation as in the case of a change from one syntactic category to another, e.g. *a drop - to drop*. They are also called **conversions**.

**zero pronoun** The omission of a pronoun, either obligatory (not free), as in *I saw him running through the street*, or optional (free), as in *the book (that) I gave you*.

**Zipf's law** When the frequencies of word types in a text are ranked, then the frequency of a word with rank  $N$  is equal to the frequency of the word with rank 1 (the most frequent word) divided by  $N$ .

