SPHY103 CENTRAL EXAMINATION NOTES

Week 1: Introduction

- Linguistics is the scientific study of language, its organisations and function and context
- Language involves: knowing the sound systems (e.g. what starts and ends a word), understanding words, knowing sentences and their structure (structure creates meaning)
- **Form** – phonological and gestural representation of morpheme or word
- **Meaning** – conceptual aspect or semantics that permits us to comprehend a message
- **Use** – Function in daily linguistic use

Form	Meaning	Use
Phonology	Semantics	Pragmatics
Morphology		
Syntax		

Definitions:

- **Phonology** – The sounds system of a language e.g. ''Sip'' vs ''Zip''
- **Morphology** – The internal structure of words, the smaller units that contribute to the composition of a word [organising principles] e.g. ''Quick-ly'' vs the incorrect ''Ly-Quick''
- **Syntax** – The organisation of words to produce sentences or meaningful phrases e.g. ''The fat cat'' verses similar in French ''The cat fat''
- **Semantics** – The study of a word and sentence meaning, different semantic concepts attach themselves to different words e.g. ''cup'' vs ''glass'
- **Pragmatics** – The study of language use [reasons/choices and their effect]. Related to difference in language use, metaphors, humour, compositional rules etc. → consider meaning, context, emphasis

Language verses Speech:

- **Language** – communication in the distinctly human manner, using a system of arbitrary symbols with conventionally assigned meanings using voice, writing or body
- **Speech** – Oral communication; expression of human thought and emotions by speech
- **Linguistic competence** – Linguistic knowledge i.e. what we know
- **Linguistic performance** – How linguistic knowledge is used in actual speech production and comprehension

What is grammar?

- **Prescriptive** grammar – Attempts to legislate what grammatical rules for speakers should be, rather than what they are
- **Descriptive** grammar – Description or model of speaker's linguistic competence; grammaticality is dependent on rules of the linguistic community to which the speaker belongs