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Introduction to Applied Linguistics

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Over the years, the term *Applied linguistics* has been defined and interpreted in a number of different ways. However, the modern researchers say that it is an approach to language problems, seeks practical solutions in an interdisciplinary setting. The field language teaching, for example, has profited from applied linguistic analysis of its basic premises (which skills are to be learned and how they are best learned) and practices (which pedagogical approaches and methods work the best in different contexts). Moreover, the focus of applied linguistics is on trying to resolve language-based problems that people encounter in the real world, whether they may be learners, teachers, supervisors, academics, lawyers, service providers, test takers, policy developers, lexicographers, translators, or a whole range of business clients.

A list of major language-based problems that applied linguistics typically addresses across a wide range of settings follows. The list is necessarily partial, but it should indicate *what* it is that applied linguists try to do, if not *how* they go about their work. Applied linguists address subsets of the following problems:

- ❖ Language learning problems (emergence, awareness, rules, use, context, attitudes, expertise)
- ❖ Language teaching problems (resources, training, practice, interaction, understanding, use, contexts, inequalities, motivations, outcomes)
- ❖ Literacy problems (linguistic and learning issues)

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- ❖ Language contact problems (language and culture)
- ❖ Language inequality problems (ethnicity, class, region, gender, and age)
- ❖ Language policy and planning problems (status planning and corpus planning; ecology of language)
- ❖ Language assessment problems (validity, reliability, usability, responsibility)
- ❖ Language use problems (dialects, registers, discourse communities, gate keeping situations, limited access to services)
- ❖ Language and technology problems (on-line, off-line, technology assisted)
- ❖ Translation and interpretation problems
- ❖ Language pathology problems (aphasias, dyslexia, physical disabilities)

Hence, it is not easy to define a single sub-field for applied linguistics, there are major branches of applied linguistics include bilingualism and multilingualism, computer-mediated communication (CMC), conversation analysis, contrastive linguistics, language assessment, literacy's, discourse analysis, language pedagogy, second language acquisition, lexicography, language planning and policies, pragmatics, forensic linguistics, and translation.

Reference:

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