

Linguistics, the scientific study of [language](#).

The word was first used in the middle of the 19th century to emphasize the difference between a newer approach to the study of language that was then developing and the more traditional approach of [philology](#). The differences were and are largely matters of attitude, emphasis, and purpose. The philologist is concerned primarily with the historical development of languages as it is [manifest](#) in written texts and in the [context](#) of the associated literature and [culture](#). The linguist, though he may be interested in written texts and in the development of languages through time, tends to give priority to spoken languages and to the problems of analyzing them as they operate at a given point in time.

The field of linguistics may be divided in terms of three dichotomies: [synchronic](#) versus [diachronic](#), theoretical versus applied, and microlinguistics versus macrolinguistics. A synchronic description of a language describes the language as it is at a given time; a diachronic description is concerned with the historical development of the language and the structural changes that have taken place in it. The goal of theoretical [linguistics](#) is the construction of a general theory of the structure of language or of a general theoretical framework for the description of languages; the aim of applied linguistics is the application of the findings and techniques of the scientific study of language to practical tasks, especially to the elaboration of improved methods of language teaching. The terms microlinguistics and macrolinguistics are not yet well established, and they are, in fact, used here purely for convenience. The former refers to a narrower and the latter to a much broader view of the scope of linguistics. According to the microlinguistic view, languages should be analyzed for their own sake and without reference to their social function, to the manner in which they are acquired by children, to the psychological mechanisms that underlie the production and reception of [speech](#), to the literary and the [aesthetic](#) or communicative function of language, and so on. In contrast, macrolinguistics embraces all of these aspects of language. Various areas within macrolinguistics have been given terminological recognition: [psycholinguistics](#), [sociolinguistics](#), [anthropological linguistics](#), [dialectology](#), mathematical and [computational linguistics](#), and [stylistics](#). Macrolinguistics should not be identified with applied linguistics. The application of linguistic methods and concepts to language teaching may well involve other [disciplines](#) in a way that microlinguistics does not. But there is, in principle, a theoretical aspect to every part of macrolinguistics, no less than to microlinguistics.

A large portion of this article is devoted to theoretical, synchronic microlinguistics, which is generally acknowledged as the central part of the subject; it will be abbreviated henceforth as theoretical linguistics.

Lyons, John, Ivić, Pavle and Hamp, Eric P., "**linguistics**", Encyclopedia Britannica, 20 Oct. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/science/linguistics> accessed 3 December 2023.

Tasks: read the text carefully before answering the following questions:

- ✚ Identify the main idea of the text.
- ✚ What are the characteristics of linguistics as a scientific study of language?
- ✚ Find in the text the synonyms of these words/expressions:
 - **Enhanced**
 - **Limited to small area of interest,**
 - **Perspective**
- ✚ What does the term "philology" mean?
- ✚ Summarize the text in no more than 120 words.
- ✚ Translate the following sentence into French: (**The linguist, though he may be interested in written texts and in the development of languages through time, tends to give priority to spoken languages and to the problems of analyzing them as they operate at a given point in time**).

Explaining:

Emphasize: UK usually **emphasise** 'em.fə.saɪz

- to show that something is very important or worth giving attention to
- to make something more obvious
- to state or show that something is especially important or deserves special attention

Dichotomy: *noun* [C usually singular] /daɪ'kɒt.ə.mi/

- a difference between two completely opposite ideas or things:
- the division of two things that are completely different:

Philology: *noun* [U] old-fashioned UK /frɪ'lɒl.ə.dʒi/

the study of language, especially its history and development

Manifest: easily noticed or obvious

For convenience of: in written English. You can use this phrase when you want to explain why something is being done in a particular way

Be identified with somebody/ something / something to be closely connected with somebody/ something

Le linguiste, même s'il s'intéresse aux textes écrits et à l'évolution des langues dans le temps, a tendance à privilégier les langues parlées et les problèmes d'analyse de celles-ci telles qu'elles fonctionnent à un moment donné. (**Deepl**)

Le linguiste, bien qu'il puisse s'intéresser aux textes écrits et à l'évolution des langues à travers le temps, a tendance à donner la priorité aux langues parlées et aux problèmes de leur analyse telles qu'elles fonctionnent à un moment donné. (**G.Translate**)

TTSReader (A free online text-to-speech reader that allows you to listen to any text, file, website, or book)

Summarizing a text is a process of condensing the main points of a text into a shorter version. [Here are some steps to follow when summarizing a text](#)¹:

1. **Read the text:** Read the text carefully to understand its main points.
2. **Break it down into sections:** Divide the text into sections to make it easier to summarize.
3. **Identify the key points in each section:** Identify the main ideas in each section of the text.
4. **Write the summary:** Write a summary of the text using your own words.
5. **Check the summary against the original text:** Make sure that your summary accurately reflects the main points of the original text.

When writing a summary, it's important to avoid copying any text from the original text. Instead, you should use your own words to condense the main points of the text into a shorter version. You should also make sure that your summary accurately reflects the main points of the original text.

Philology is the study of language in oral and written historical sources. It is an interdisciplinary field that combines textual criticism, literary criticism, history, and linguistics with strong ties to etymology¹².

Philology is also defined as the study of literary texts as well as oral and written records, the establishment of their authenticity and their original form, and the determination of their meaning². A person who pursues this kind of study is known as a philologist².

The term **philology** is derived from the Greek φιλολογία (philología) which means "love of learning"¹. The field of philology covers various branches such as historical, comparative, textual, and literary philology². Classical philology studies classical languages, while Indo-European studies involve the comparative philology of all Indo-European languages². Philology, with its focus on historical development (diachronic analysis), is contrasted with linguistics due to Ferdinand de Saussure's insistence on the importance of synchronic analysis².

Philology is an important field of study that helps us understand the evolution of languages and literature over time. It provides insights into the cultural, social, and political contexts in which languages and literature were created and used.