



Linguistic Society of America
Advancing the Scientific Study of Language



The Science of Linguistics

Modern linguists approach their work with a scientific perspective, although they use methods that used to be thought of as solely an academic discipline of the humanities. Contrary to previous belief, linguistics is multidisciplinary. It overlaps each of the human sciences including psychology, neurology, anthropology, and sociology. Linguists conduct formal studies of sound structure, grammar and meaning, but they also investigate the history of language families, and research language acquisition. And as other scientists, they formulate hypotheses, catalog observations, and work to support explanatory theories.

The resources on this page offer some perspectives on the science and applied science of linguistics.

Below are a series of [FAQ pamphlets](#) which offer particular insights into language from a scientific perspective.

- [Language Acquisition](#)
- [Does the Language I Speak Influence the Way I Think?](#)
- [Why Can't Computers Use English?](#)

The Domain of Linguistics is a series first published by the Linguistic Society of America in 1982. It was written to explain the discipline to the general public, facilitated by a Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

- [Language Variation and Change](#) by S. Thomason

- [Machine Translation](#) by M. Kay
- [The Sounds of Speech](#) by M. Halle
- [Neurolinguistics](#) by L. Menn

More articles in the [Domain of Linguistics](#)

