



LAN 1210 Lecture 13

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS

Part 2

By
Dr. Humphrey M. Kapau (PhD)



INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

*"Follow excellence and success
will follow, pants down"*

- Rancho, '3 Idiots'



TODAY'S VOCABULARY PICK

□ **Perambulate** (*verb*):

- *to walk about aimlessly, usually for pleasure.*

UP NEXT...

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS

Part 2

LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS

-

HARTMANN AND STORK



Hartmann
(1938 –)

1. The representational function

- This is **when language is used to portray a situation**. E.g. What would happen if the sun fell from the sky?; what happens if we subtract 2 from 4?

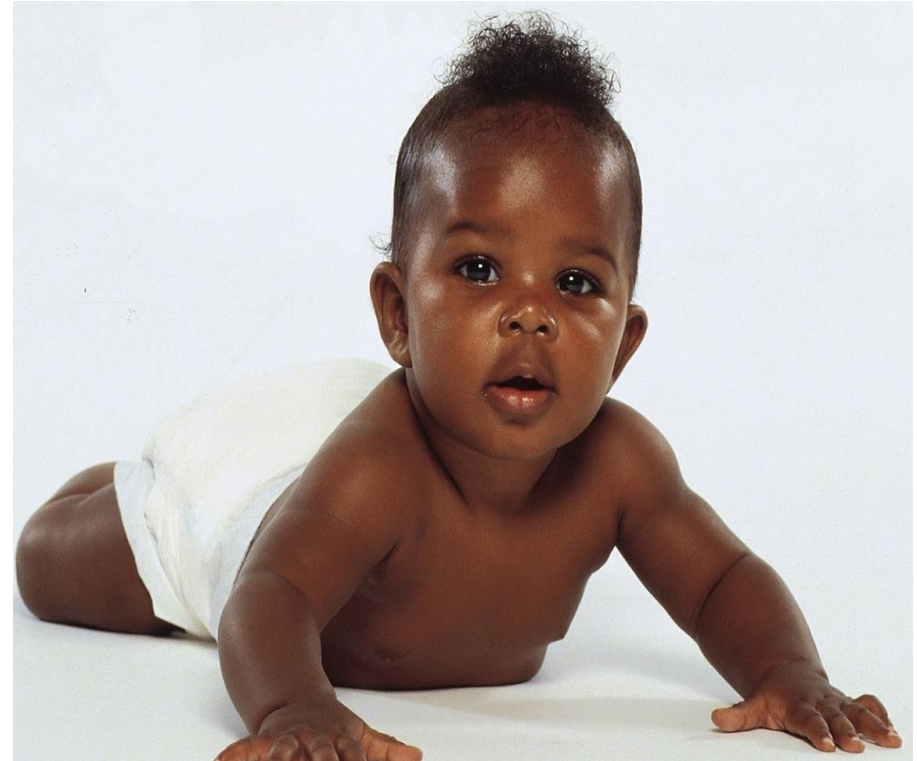
2. The communicative function

□ Refers to a function **whereby language is used to convey information** between **speaker and listener; writer/reader; etc.**



3. The appellative function

- That function of language meant to make someone respond. E.g. calling a baby by its name; calling someone by their name e.g. 'Mutale,' 'Prof. Alex' would necessitate a response from them (see **conative function** by Jakobson).





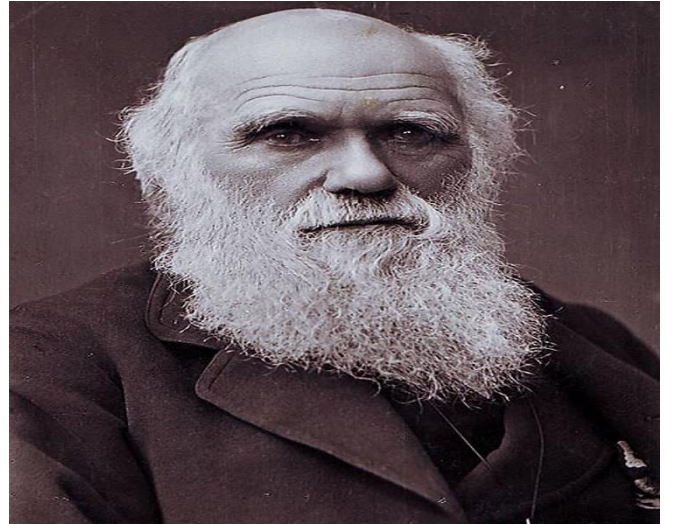
4. The expressive function

- Whenever language is **used to verbalise/utter feelings and emotions** e.g. 'I love you', it is said to perform the expressive function.

5. The cognitive function

□ This is **when language is used to verbalise intellectual reasoning.**

E.g. When one is debating.



LANGUAGE FUNCTIONS

-

WHORF



Source: Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library
Produced for reference use only. (mssa.img.006312)

Whorf
(1897 – 1941)

1. To determine our thinking

- Whorf argues that our first language (i.e. **L1** or loosely, our '**mother tongue**') determines our thinking.



□ In other words, according to Whorf, we think in a language. He calls this **linguistic determinism**.

□ E.g. when writing an assignment in English, we first think in our local language and then translate that into English.

2. To experience the universe differently

- Since our first language determines our thinking (i.e. **linguistic determinism**) and we know that languages of the world differ, Whorf argues that speakers of different languages view/experience the world differently.

□ This makes our view of the world **relative** (i.e. everything is relative in that it is dependent on the speakers of a language. There is no standard view of the world e.g. of a 'house', 'family' and 'son').

□ Whorf calls our relative view of the world as **linguistic relativism**.

☐ NB: Linguistic

determinism and linguistic

relativism are two views

that make up a 'mother'


hypothesis called the **WHORF**

HYPOTHESIS.


FUNCTIONS OF PARTICULAR LANGUAGES

□ This is when particular languages are used to perform particular functions e.g. English as official language in Zambia.

NOTE:



□ Other language functions such as those discussed by Austin in the **Speech Act Theory** will not be considered in LAN 1210.



□ Dell's language functions are called **traditional functions of language** while those by Halliday are called **macrofunctions of language**.



END