



Language

Language is a set of human habits, the purpose of which is to give expression to human thoughts and feelings especially to impart them to others.

On the other hand, we can also say, "Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group operates".

Language is the essential requirement of all human co-operative work. According to Ben Jonson, "Speech is the instrument of society". It is used not only for giving and receiving information but also for joining man to man by way of greetings, conversations, enquiries, co-operation and discussion.

Characteristics of language:-

Language is an inseparable part of human society. Human civilization has been possible only through language. Language is basically human. It is different from animal communication. Let's look at some

of the characteristics of language:-

(a) Language is Learnt

Language is not a born activity as crying and walking. It is not an automatic process. It has to be learnt. Any learner learns the language by imitation and practice.

(b) Language is a acquired Behavior.

Language is acquired behavior. If a baby or man is shifted to another community or cultural group, he will acquire the language spoken by that cultural community. For example; - if an Indian family is settled in United States, the children of the family will acquire the English language with an American accent.

(c) Language is a system.

Language is a system like a human body, just as body functions through different organs such as brain, heart, lungs. In the same way, language functions through sounds, words and structures.

(d) Language is vocal.

The language is primarily observed speech. Speech is a fundamental thing in language learning, reading and writing are secondary. Through speech and modulation of speech we get a clear picture of English inflexion.

(e) Ever changing

No language on earth is static. Every language is undergoing changes in its grammar, vocabulary, structure and phonology with the course of time.

(f) Language is for communication.

The main purpose of language is communication. Since it is so, a person's speech must be intelligible to others. For this, he must acquire the right pronunciation and intonation.