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# Leonard Bloomfield

## (1887-1949)

Course - 4  
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- Influenced by Saussure, Bloomfield was the creator of his own version of structuralism .
- His approach to linguistics was characterized by its emphasis on scientific basis of linguistics .
- Only the “publically observable responses” could be subject of investigation.
- Focused over the Parole or the speech, the observable or the “outward manifestation of language”
- Linguistics should deal objectively and systematically with observable data
- More interested in the forms of Language than in meaning.

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# Some Key Concepts of Bloomfield's Theory

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## Utterance :-

- One central element of his theory.
  - Utterance are produced by acts of speech.
  - **Ex-** 'Stop'  
    'Oh my God !' etc
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## **Alikenes of Utterance :-**

- **Speech form is a unit in Language. It may be a word or s sentence.**
  - **In the case of our own languages, we trust to our everyday knowledge to tell us whether speech forms are “the same” or “different”.**
  - **‘Man’ spoken on various pitch in English are the same word with same meaning. But “Men” has different meaning.**
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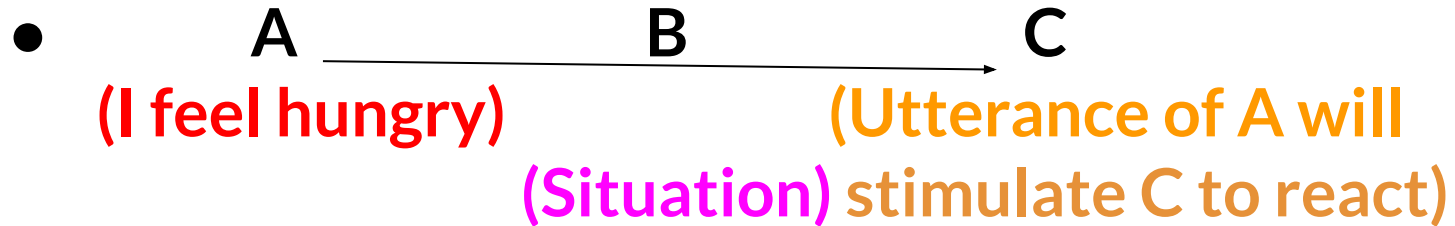
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## Speech Community :-

- A group of people who interact by means of speech.
  - The totality of utterances that can be made in a speech community is the language of that speech community.
  - **Ex -** Group of speakers of Bengali and the group of speakers of English
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# Behaviourist Conception of Meaning :-

- Behaviourists believe that our responses to environment stimuli shape our actions.



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## Form :-

- Form is a meaningful Vocal feature.
- Form is a style.
- Forms may be free or Bound

Ex - House (Free Form)

Kindness (Bound Form )

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## **Morpheme :-**

- A morpheme is a short segment of Language.
- It is a word or part of a word that has meaning.
- Free and Bound Morpheme.
- Historic ( Free )
- Pre Historic ( Base + Affix)  
Happily ( Base + Suffix)

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## **Word :-**

- A minimum free form which may be uttered alone with meaning.

## **Phrase :-**

- A group of words that work together to make a meaning.
  - Can stand alone like words.
  - Used in grammar to distinguish the substructural parts of sentences.
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## **Syntactic Construction :-**

- Each of the ordered unit in a construction has a position.
- Each position in a construction can be filled only by certain forms.
- None of the immediate constituents is in bound form.
- It is a grammatical construction, having only free forms as immediate constituents.
- **He went to school.**

## **Sentence :-**

- **A maximum construction in any utterance is a sentence.**
- **This goes along with our intuitions for everyday use of language, what we understand to be the largest linguistic constructions are usually sentences.**

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## Phoneme :-

- Smallest unit of speech , distinguishing one word or word element from another.
  - Element 'p' in the word 'tap' which separates the word from 'tab' , 'tag' , 'tan' etc.
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The image features a central graphic with a bokeh background of soft, out-of-focus light spots in shades of yellow, orange, and blue. The text "thank you" is written in a cursive, handwritten style. The word "thank" is in a dark green color, and "you" is in a dark blue color. The text is framed by elegant, flowing black lines that extend to the left and right edges of the graphic. The entire graphic is set against a solid orange background.

thank  
you