

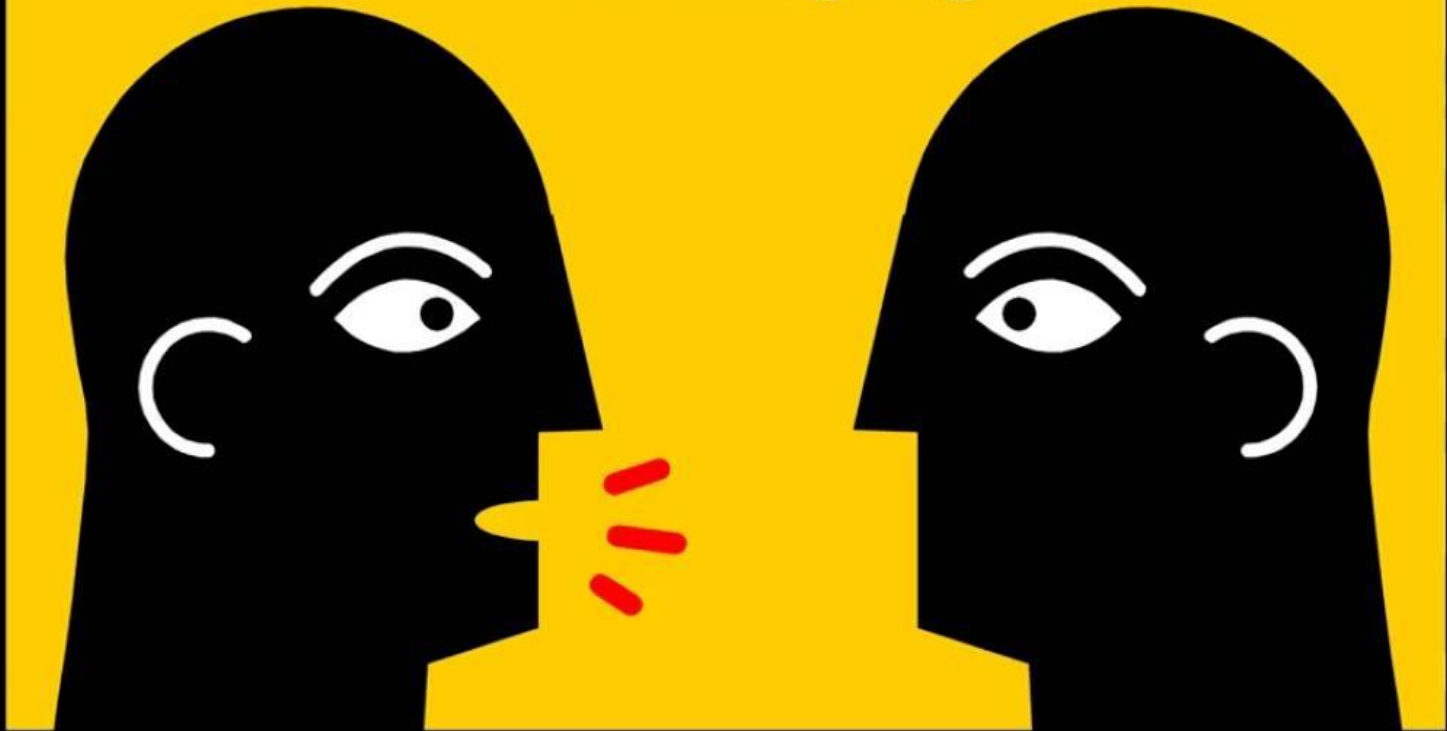
# **Concept of Language and it's Functions**

**Course - 1.1.4**

**Unit - 1**

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What is Language?





## What is Language?

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- Communication is the process of exchanging messages and creating meaning.
- Language is a symbol system. It includes rules regarding the combination of sounds into meaning units, meaning units into words, words into sentences, along with the rules for using that language.

# **Functions of Languages**

There are Three basic functions of Languages :-

1. Informative Functions
2. Expressive Functions
3. Directive Functions

## Informative Functions of Languages :-

- Provides informations
- The teacher gives us some informations about this chapter

## Expressive Functions of languages :-

- Express emotions, feelings to evoke similar feelings to the opposite.
- What is this life is full of care? / We have no time to stand and stare ( W. H. Davis)

## Directive Functions of languages :-

- To cause of actions.
- When a teacher asks a student to write on blackboard.

## **Some Another Important Functions of Languages :-**

According to Geoffrey Leech (1974) , there are five main functions -

1. Informal Functions
2. Expressive Functions
3. Directive Functions
4. Aesthetic Functions
5. Phatic Functions

### **Informational Functions of Languages :-**

- It helps us deliver messages.

### **Expressive Functions of Languages :-**

- Don't deliver any particular information.
- Are used to express attitudes and feelings.
- I love this book so much.

### **Directive Functions of Languages :-**

- Use to induce certain actions or reactions.
- Command, Request etc.

### **Aesthetic Functions of Languages :-**

- Helps us to use words as a tool of a poetic art.

### **Phatic Functions of Languages :-**

- The only purpose is to maintain a social relationships and to begin or continue a conversation.

# Some Another Important Functions of Languages

According to Jakobson, there are six types of functions of language

1. Referential Function
2. Poetic Function
3. Emotive Function
4. Conative Function
5. Phatic Function
6. Metalinguistic Function



## Referential Function :-

- Refers to context
- Usually describes situation, object or it's state.
- “The autumn leaves have all fallen now”

## Poetic Function :-

- Mainly used in poetry.

## Emotive Function :-

- It's about the emotions.
- “Oh! such a pity”

## Conative Function :-

- Directed to the receiver.
- “Do open the door.”

## Phatic Function :-

- Usually about the small talks that precede the main conversation.
- “Hi” , “ How are you?” etc.

## Metalinguistic Function :-

- Language is used to describe itself.
- It is used to explain the meaning of a word.

A rectangular yellow sticky note is pinned to a brown corkboard. The words "Thank you" are written in a red, cursive-style marker on the note. A single orange pushpin is visible at the top center of the note.

Thank you