Longman Dictionary of Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics
Longman Dictionary of

LANGUAGE TEACHING AND
APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Jack C. Richards and Richard Schmidt

Fourth edition
GUIDE TO THE DICTIONARY

aphasia n
aphasic adj

loss of the ability to use and understand language, usually caused by damage to the brain. The loss may be total or partial, and may affect spoken and/or written language ability.

There are different types of aphasia: 

agraphia is difficulty in writing; 
alexia is difficulty in reading; 
anomia is difficulty in using proper nouns; and 
agrammatism is difficulty in using grammatical words like prepositions, articles, etc.

Aphasia can be studied in order to discover how the brain processes language.

see also neurolinguistics


call n

the use of a computer in the teaching or learning of a second or foreign language. CALL may take the form of 

a activities which parallel learning through other media but which use the facilities of the computer (e.g. using the computer to present a reading text)

b activities which are extensions or adaptations of print-based or classroom based activities (e.g. computer programs that teach writing skills by helping the student develop a topic and thesis statement and by checking a composition for vocabulary, grammar, and topic development), and

c activities which are unique to CALL.

see also interactive video

dysphasia n

another term for aphasia


call n

an abbreviation for computer assisted language learning

agrammatism n

see aphasia
INTRODUCTION

Who is this dictionary for?

This dictionary is intended for:

• students taking undergraduate or graduate courses in language teaching or applied linguistics, particularly those planning to take up a career in the teaching of English as a Second or Foreign Language or in foreign language teaching
• language teachers doing in-service or pre-service courses, such as the UCLES Diploma in Teaching English to Adults
• students doing introductory courses in linguistics and related areas
• teachers and others interested in the practical applications of language study

Why this dictionary?

Language teaching and applied linguistics are fields which have their own core subject matter and which also draw on a number of complementary fields of study. Among the core subject matter disciplines are second language acquisition, methodology, testing, and syllabus design. The complementary fields of study include both the language based disciplines such as linguistics, sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics, as well as the education based disciplines such as curriculum development, teacher education, and evaluation. The result is that students taking courses in language teaching and applied linguistics encounter a large number of specialized terms which frequently occur in articles, books and lectures. This dictionary attempts to clarify the meanings and uses of these terms.

The scope of the dictionary

The dictionary was written for those with little or no background in language teaching or applied linguistics.

We have given special attention to English, and the majority of the examples in the dictionary are from English, but the dictionary will also be helpful to those interested in other languages. Although the dictionary is not intended primarily for those who already have a specialized training in language teaching or applied linguistics, it will serve as a reference book in areas with which they are less familiar. It should also be useful to general readers who need further information about the terms which occur in the fields of language teaching and applied linguistics.
Language teaching and applied linguistics

This dictionary includes the core vocabulary of both language teaching and applied linguistics. The field of language teaching is concerned with the development of language programmes and courses, teaching methodology, materials development, second language acquisition theory, testing, teacher training and related areas. The dictionary includes terms from the following areas of study in the field of language teaching:

- teaching methods and approaches in language teaching
- curriculum development and syllabus design
- second language acquisition
- the teaching of listening, speaking, reading and writing
- computer assisted language learning
- teacher education in language teaching
- English grammar and pronunciation
- language testing, research methods, and basic statistics

The dictionary also includes terms from the field of applied linguistics. For the purposes of this book, “applied linguistics” refers to the practical applications of linguistics and language theory and includes terms from the following areas of study:

- introductory linguistics, including phonology, phonetics, syntax, semantics and morphology
- discourse analysis
- sociolinguistics, including the sociology of language and communicative competence
- psycholinguistics, including learning theories

What the dictionary contains

This dictionary contains some 3500 entries, which define in as simple and precise a way as possible, the most frequently occurring terms found in the areas listed above. Each term has been selected on the basis of its importance within an area and reflects the fact that the term has a particular meaning when used within that area, a meaning unlikely to be listed in other dictionaries. Many of these terms were included in the third edition of this dictionary, but in preparing the fourth edition, a number of items no longer in common use were deleted, revisions were made to a number of entries, and some 360 new entries have been added to reflect current usage in language teaching and applied linguistics.

Our aim has been to produce clear and simple definitions which communicate the basic and essential meanings of a term in non-technical language.
Introduction

Definitions are self-contained as far as possible, but cross references show links to other terms and concepts.

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