

Linguistics E: Class 3 Principle of language generation

1 Research project/Conference preparation

Q.1 Data analysis must be performed in your research presentations. Share your ideas with each other about what data to collect.

Q.2 Think about what is enough data to ask for a research question answer.

Q.3 If a question does not have an appropriate answer, consider whether such a question is worthwhile.

2 The criteria of language description

Q.4 In your own language, see to what extent you can transpose, shorten, or abbreviate words to see if the sentence is understandable.

Q.5 Discuss whether the language description criteria can be simply set to “understandable.”

Q.6 Discuss what is important other than “understand” as the standard of language description.

3 Principle of language generation

Q.7 Chat with other students for a while. Find out what topic you talked about.

Q.8 Remember what word and grammar you used during the chat. Write them down.

Q.9 Why is it easy to recall topics you spoke? Why is it difficult to recall grammatical items you used?

Q.10 What does it mean to generate a natural language?

Q.11 What is the purpose of generating a natural language?

Q.12 Please try to imagine the mechanisms and processes of language generation in the brain.

Q.13 Discuss what knowledge you need to understand ‘April ’ or ‘shortstop’.

Q.14 Are sentences generated according to the grammatical structure?

Q.15 What is the difference between the structure of a sentence that you think in your brain and the structure of a sentence that has been uttered once?

Q.16 How do you know that you can connect two words together?

4 Metaphor

Q.17 “I can see the head of the car” or “Where is the tail of this line?” Discuss if you can say the sentences above in your language or English.

Q.18 Discuss whether “This road is winding” or “The highway runs east-west” is possible in your language or in English.

Q.19 Discuss how commonly “metaphors” are used in your language and English.

Q.20 Discuss if there is a language without metaphors.

Q.21 If a language does not have a metaphor function, discuss what the language will be.

5 Topic of the day: Are signed languages real languages?

Q.22 Is sign language a real language? Discuss it based on today’s discussion,

Q.23 How does a deaf learn sign language?

6 Sentence structure of Japanese: Relative name

Q.24 Explain the names of relatives.

Q.25 Compare it to your own language and discuss how kinship/relative names in other languages differ.

Q.26 Is it possible to call the person by a family name?

Q.27 Can this problem be simply interpreted as a nomenclature?