

Concepts in English Linguistics

Session 1: Introduction

Agglutinative language A language with a high morpheme-per-word ratio that adds information by adding additional morphemes onto words (e.g. Finnish)

Analytic language A language with a low morpheme-per-word ratio; it adds grammatical information by adding more words (e.g. Chinese, English)

Early Modern English c. 1500–1700

Fusional language A language with a high morpheme-per-word ratio that overlays multiple inflectional morphemes (i.e. different kinds of grammatical information) within its inflecting morphs (e.g. Latin, German)

Language A system of symbols

Middle Ages c. 500–1500

Middle English c. 1150–1500

Morpheme The smallest meaning-carrying element in a language

Old English c. 450–1150

Phonetics The study of the physical properties of speech, its production, and reception

Phonology Language-specific rules about how sounds combine

Pragmatics How context contributes to language meaning

Proto-Germanic (PG) A reconstructed language from which all Germanic languages have developed

Proto-Indo-European (PIE) A reconstructed language from which most European languages have developed

Synthetic language A language with a high morpheme-per-word ratio