

As we know that every form of knowledge requires language for its transmission. Linguistics deals with scientific description of language. So the scope of linguistics is very extensive.

Linguistics studies languages from utilitarian, social, historical, psychological, physiological and above all human perspectives. It means linguistics studies language:

- (i) in terms of its utility as a medium of communication (Utilitarian)
- (ii) as an agent of initiating any change in society at different levels (Social)
- (iii) as an evidence of our past (Historical)
- (iv) as the reflector of our behaviour (Psychological)
- (v) as a product of certain physical activity
- (vi) as a specific attribute of mankind (Human) (Physiological)

The above description is an attempt to encapsulate the wide range of language that is as extensive as our imagination may go. It is relevant to mention here that imagination is possible only through language. As we can't imagine without language. So whatever comes within the purview of imagination, becomes the subject matter of linguistics. It starts with the description of the smallest units of language that are sounds (Phonetic) and letters (Graphics), and it goes up to the level of discourse analysis. It makes classification of language and tries to give a rational inter-

pretation of the systems underlying it. The whole corpus of study of language under linguistics can be divided into three sections - historical, comparative and descriptive. The historical study focuses on the historical facts related to a language such as the point and place of its origin, changes in it with passage of time, etc. The comparative study takes into account certain common features found among languages and postulates theories based on these common points. The descriptive study focus on describing each and every feature of language in a systematic manner. Modern linguistics is basically descriptive in nature.

Looking at the way linguistics studies language, it can be said that the range of linguistics is very wide and day by day it is getting wider because of the emergence of new fields like computational linguistics, Anthropological linguistics, Philosophical linguistics, etc.

considering the fact that language is a precondition for any discipline to exist in academic world, linguistics creates the scope for itself. This has really resulted into the ever-expanding dimensions of linguistics.