

1 The analytical subfields of linguistics

Phonetics — the study of the physical production and perception of language (i.e., the study of sounds)

Phonology — the study of the system and structure of the physical units of language (i.e., the study of sound systems)

Morphology — the study of word-internal structure

Syntax — the study of how sentences are organised

Semantics — the study of linguistic meaning

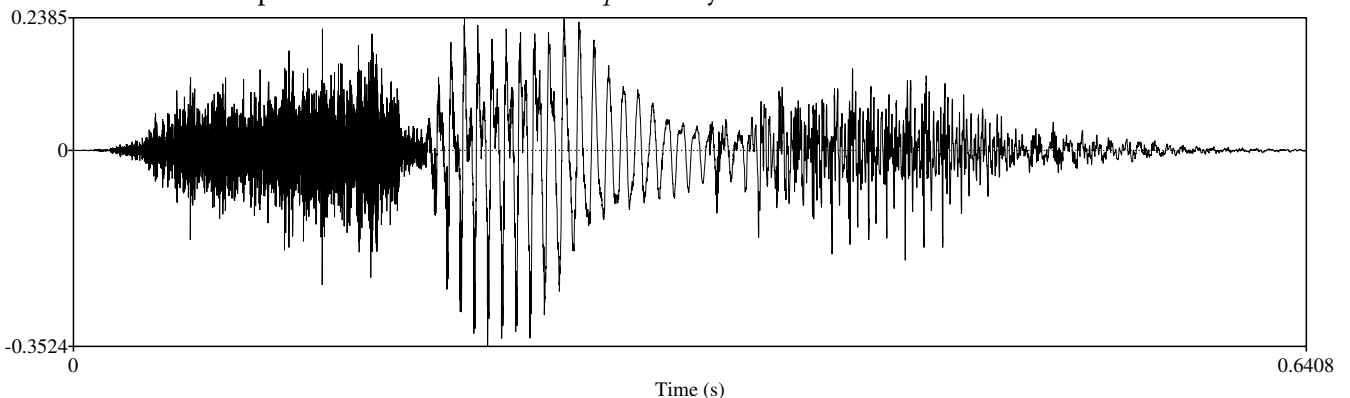
2 Exercises

For each exercise below, follow the instructions and answer the questions given. Also, try to decide what subfield of linguistics the problem best fits.

I. “prints” / “prince”
“cents” / “sense” / “scents”

- Say one of these words to your partner and have him/her try to guess which word it is (by spelling/meaning).
- Randomly choose a word and have your partner guess 10 times. How many times did s/he guess right?
- Try to write down each sound in each word (don't worry about using the correct symbols). Do you notice anything interesting?

II. This is a waveform representation of the word “super”. Try to find where each sound of the word is.



III. “Colourless green ideas sleep furiously.”

- Does this sentence obey grammatical rules? Why / why not?
- Does this sentence make sense? Why / why not?
- Is it possible for these questions to have different answers?

IV. “This lock doesn't seem to work, rendering this door unlockable!”
“If you have the right key, any door is unlockable!”

- Does the word “unlockable” mean the same thing in these two sentences?
- Why / why not?

V. “The lion saw the giraffe with the telescope.”

- What are the two different meanings this sentence can have?
- Why does it have the two different meanings?
- Would there still be two different meanings if the word “telescope” were replaced with “stethoscope”? Why / why not?