

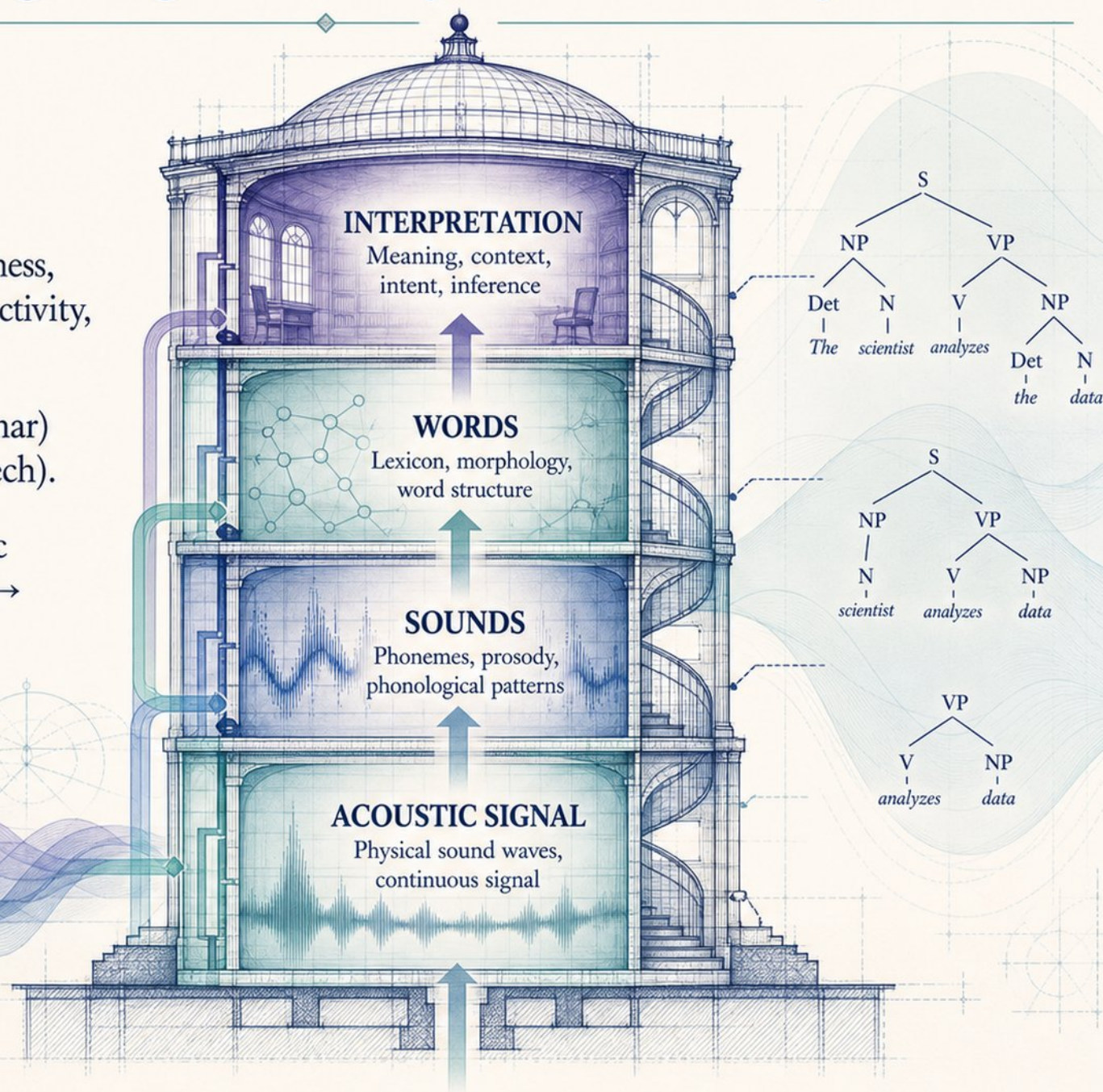
Introduction to Linguistics: Sounds, Words, and Meaning

- Covers core language subsystems: sounds (phonetics/phonology), words (morphology/lexicon), and meaning (semantics/pragmatics).
- Builds a systematic understanding of how language works for professionals, learners, and everyday communicators.
- Maps course structure and learning objectives, showing how subsystems interact in real communication.
- Replaces "grammar" myths with a descriptive, scientific perspective on linguistic structure.



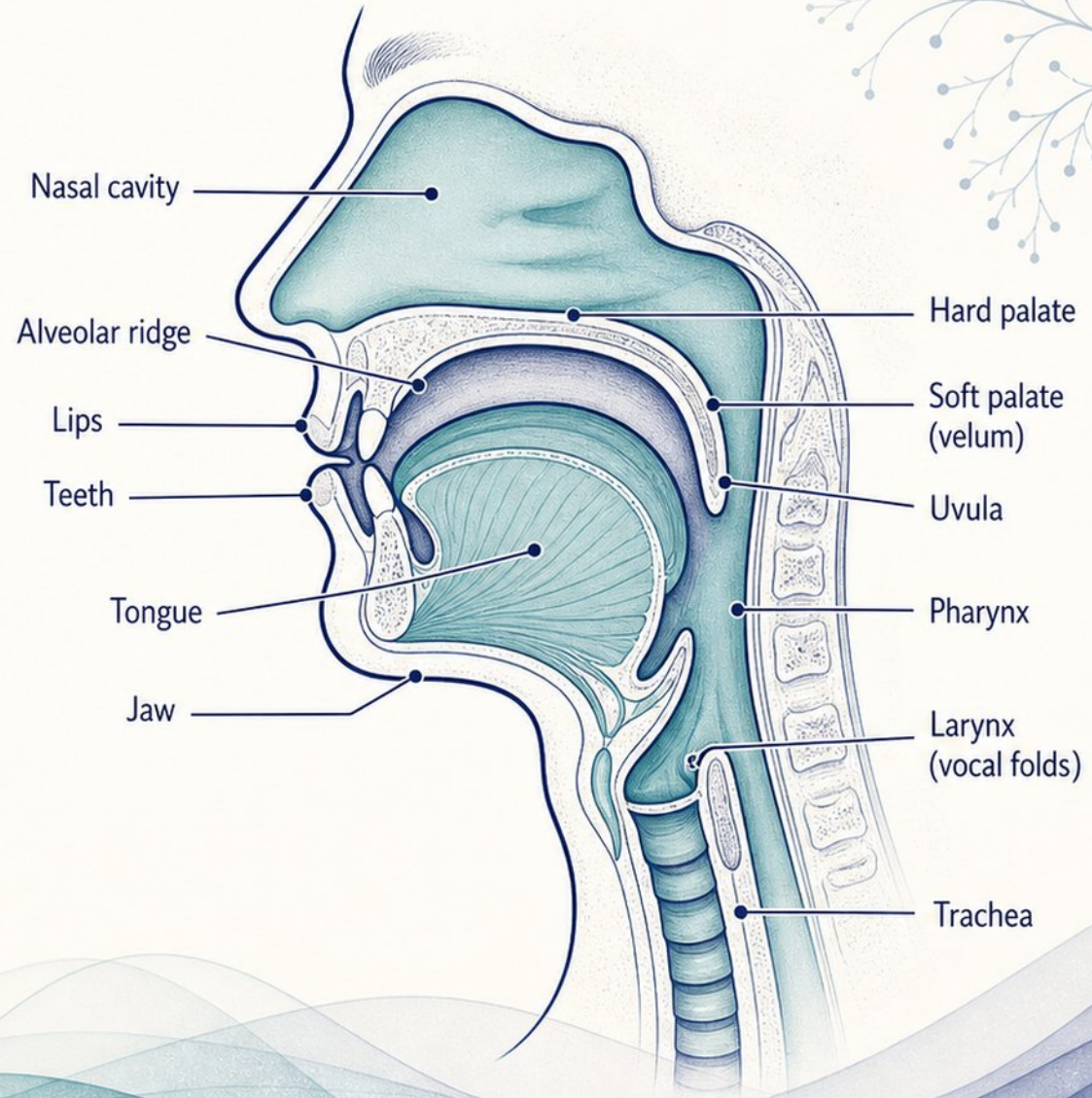
What Is Language? A System of Systems

- Language is a structured, rule-governed system, not chaotic habits.
- Hockett's features: arbitrariness, duality, displacement, productivity, cultural transmission.
- Competence (mental grammar) vs. performance (actual speech).
- Subsystems interact: acoustic signal → sounds → words → interpretation.



The Sound System: Phonetics

- Articulatory phonetics: how speech sounds are produced using the vocal tract
- Phonetics also includes acoustic (physical properties) and auditory (perception) perspectives
- Consonant classification: voicing, place of articulation (e.g., bilabial, alveolar), and manner (e.g., plosive, fricative)
- Vowel classification: tongue height, backness, lip rounding, and tenseness (e.g., /i/ high front unrounded tense)



The Sound System: Phonology

- Phonology studies abstract sound patterns and mental representations.
- Phonemes are contrastive units; allophones are predictable variants.
- Minimal pairs prove contrast (e.g., pat [p^hæt] vs. bat [bæt]).
- Complementary distribution: allophones never appear in the same environment.
- English aspiration rule: voiceless stops aspirate at syllable start.



	cons	sonorant	voice	continuant	nasal	coronal	labial	aspirated
p	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
p ^h	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
b	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
t	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
t ^h	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+
d	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
k	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
k ^h	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
g	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-

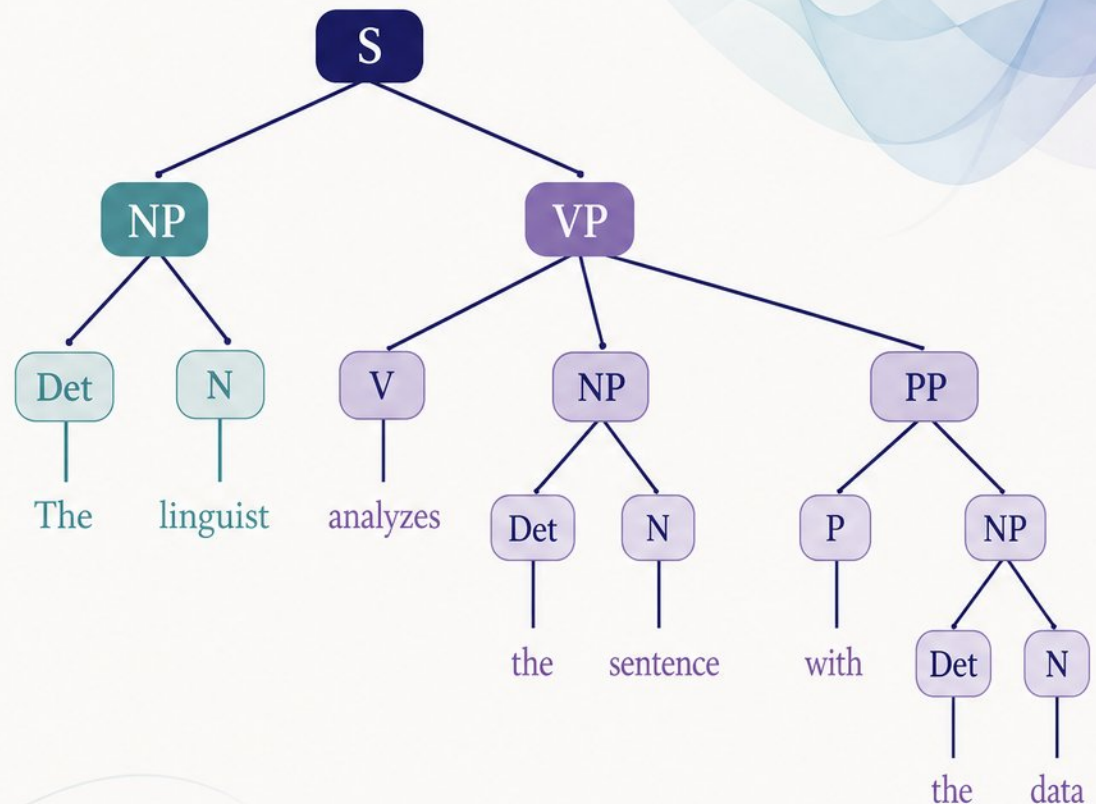
Building Words: Morphology

- Morphemes: minimal meaning units; free (cat) vs. bound (un-, -ing), roots vs. affixes
- Derivational: creates new words, often changes lexical category (teach → teacher, happy → happiness)
- Inflectional: adds grammatical info without changing class (plural -s, past -ed, progressive -ing)
- Compounding: joining two roots (blackbird, dishwasher); blending: smog, brunch
- Conversion (verb walk → noun walk); clipping (dormitory → dorm); backformation (editor → edit)



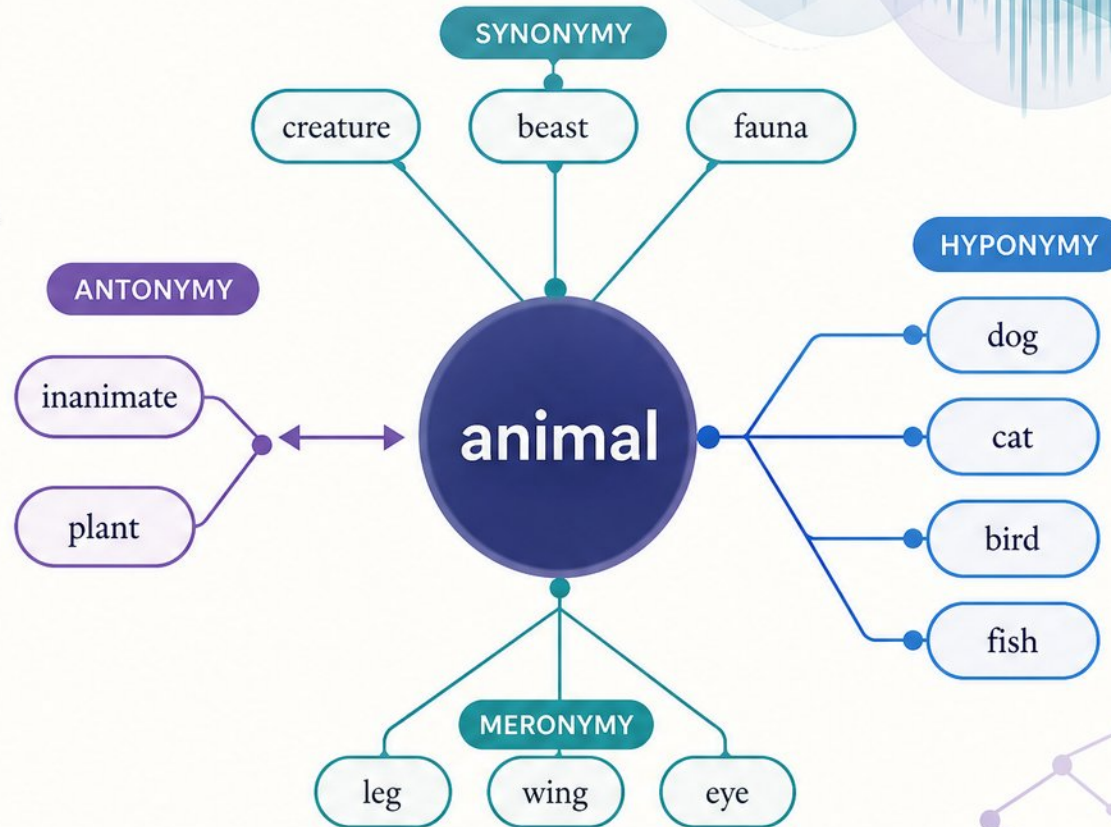
Organizing Words: Syntax and Sentence Structure

- Syntax: rule-governed system for combining words into phrases and sentences
- Constituents are word groups that act as units (NP, VP, PP, AdjP)
- Phrase structure rules and tree diagrams show hierarchical relationships
- Tests for constituents: substitution, movement, clefting, question-answer



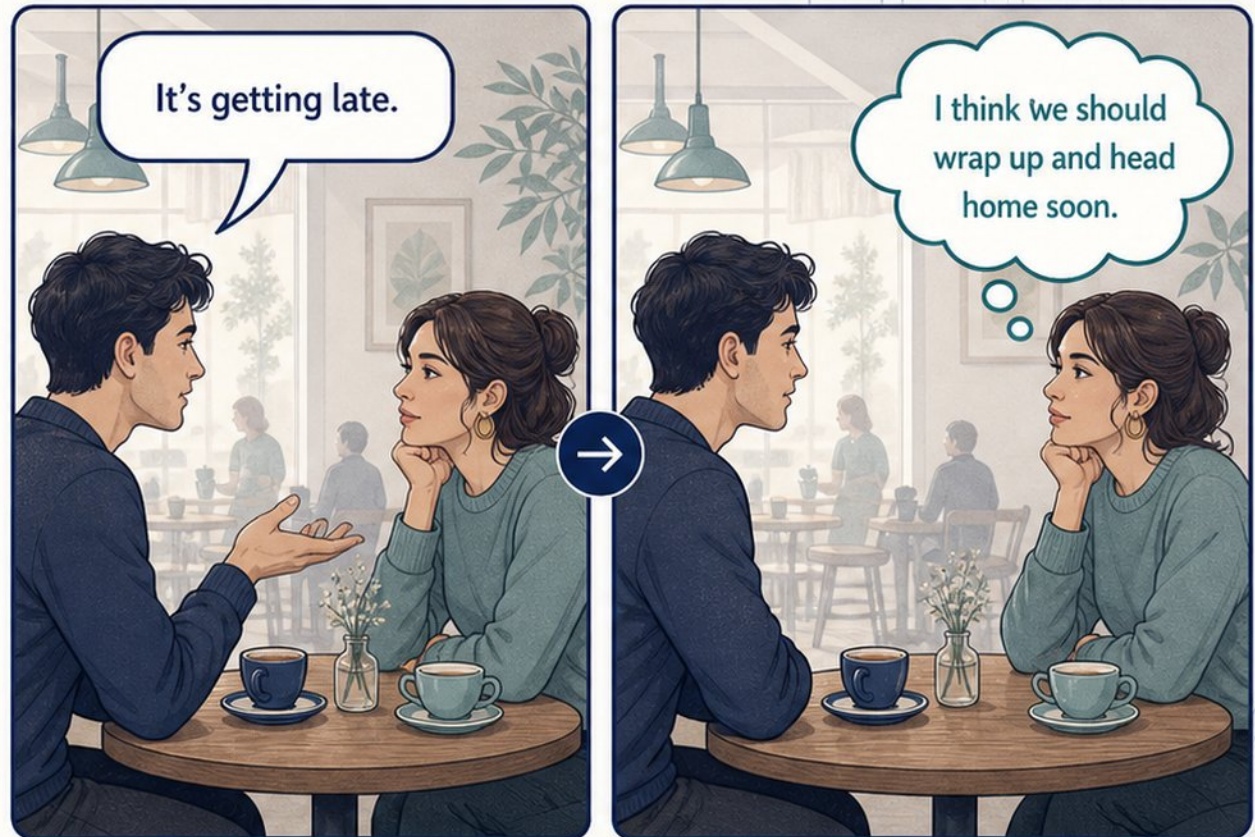
The Meaning Side: Semantics

- - Semantics studies conventional, literal meaning at word and sentence levels
- - Lexical relations: synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy
- - Gradable antonyms (big/small) vs. complementary pairs (dead/alive)
- - Hyponymy: dog is a hyponym of animal; animal is the hypernym
- - Compositional semantics combines word meanings into phrase meanings
- - Lexical ambiguity (bank) vs. structural ambiguity (I saw a man with a telescope)



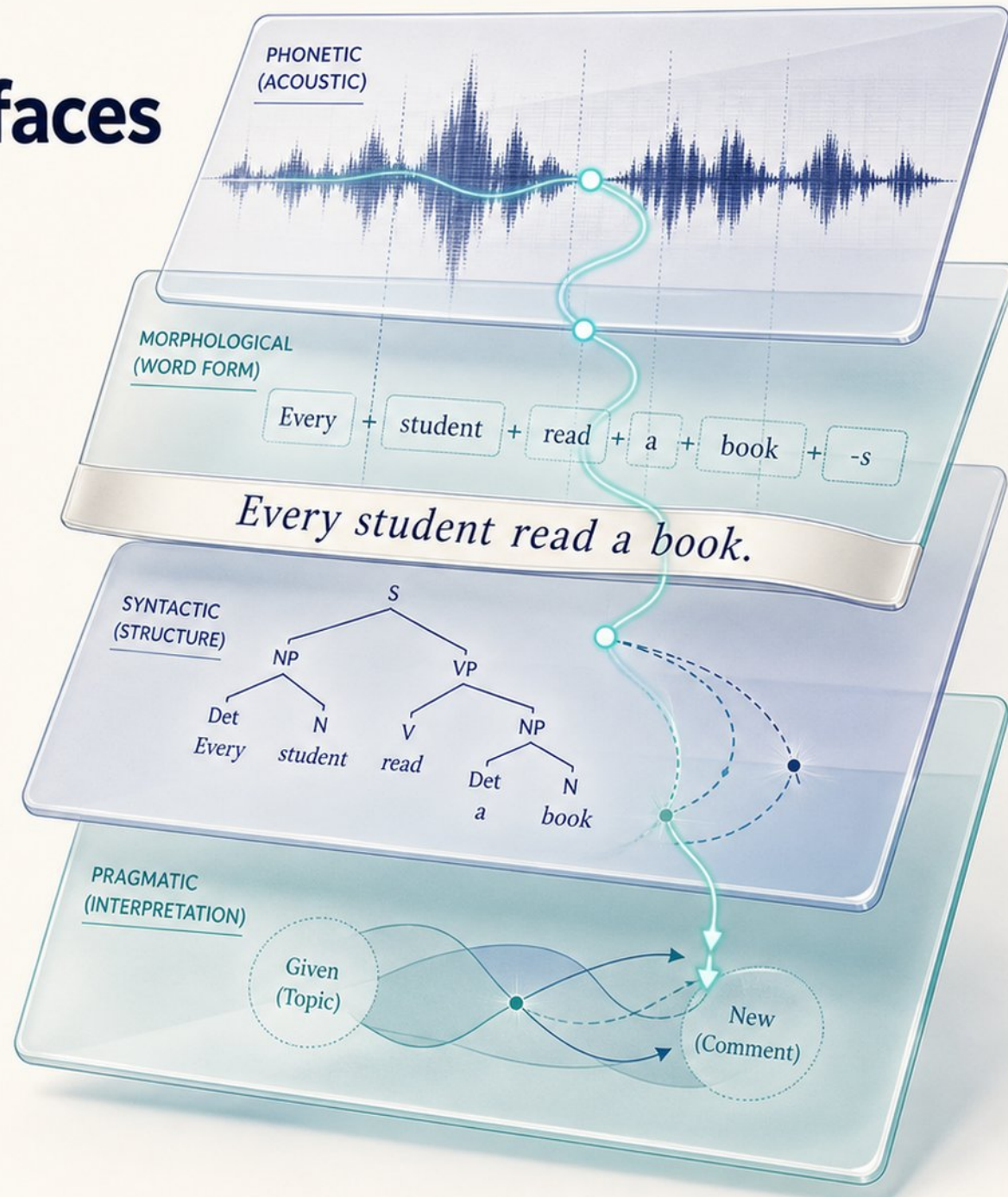
Meaning in Context: Pragmatics

- Pragmatics studies speaker meaning and how we perform actions with words.
- Speech acts: asserting, questioning, requesting, promising, and more.
- Grice's Cooperative Principle and maxims: Quality, Quantity, Relevance, Manner.
- Flouting maxims generates conversational implicature (e.g., irony, metaphor).

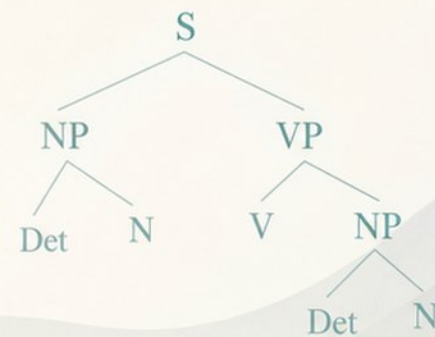


How the Pieces Fit Together: Interfaces

- Phonology–morphology: plural allomorphs /s, z, əz/ are phonologically conditioned
- Syntax–semantics: structure constrains meaning; "Every student read a book" scope ambiguity
- Syntax–pragmatics: word order signals given vs. new information and topic vs. comment
- Trace one sentence through all subsystems: from acoustic signal to pragmatic interpretation



Applying Linguistics: Language Teaching and Learning

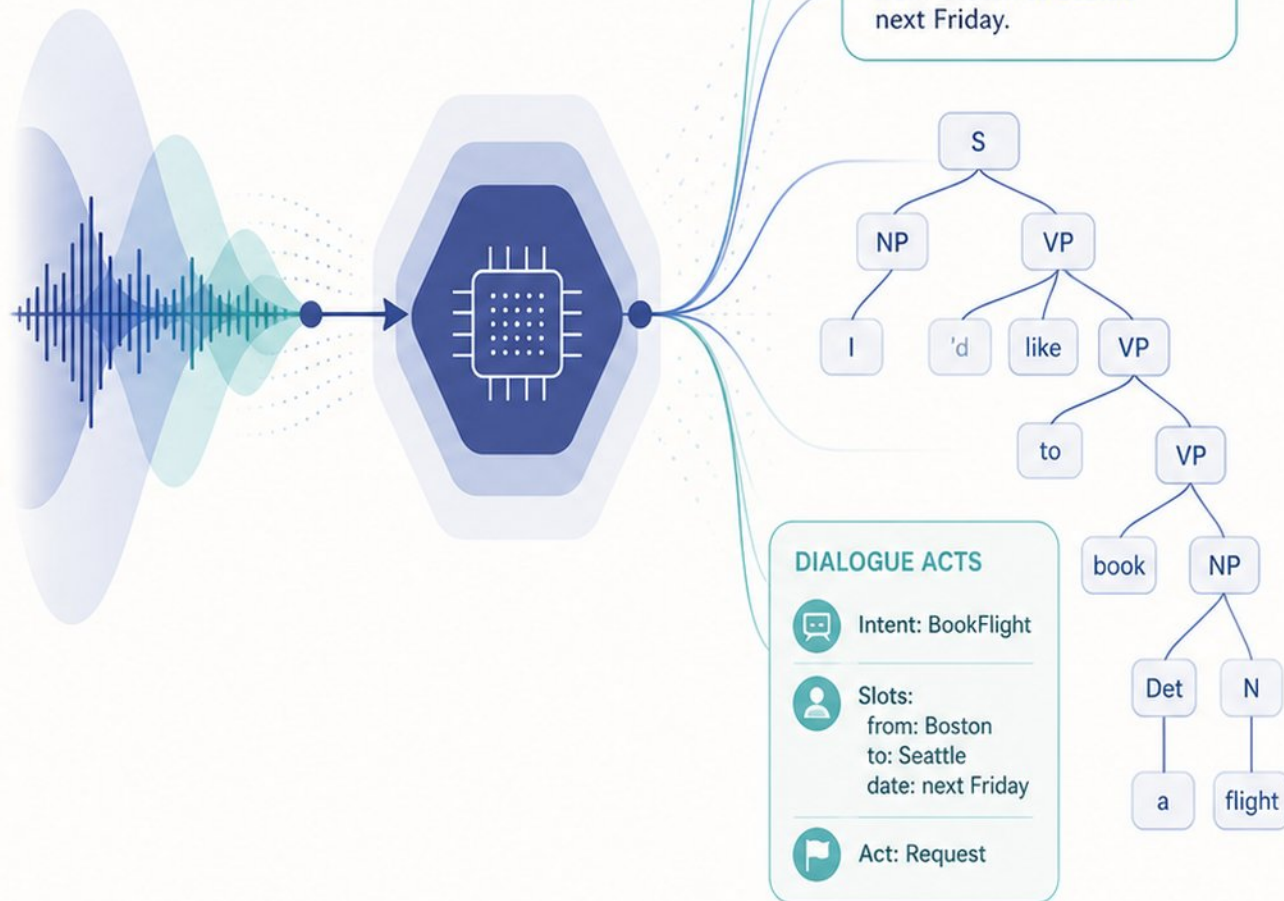


- " Descriptive vs. prescriptive: value linguistic variation without judgment"
- " Phonetics & phonology: pronunciation instruction and intelligibility"
- " Morphology & syntax: teach grammar as systematic patterns"
- " Semantics & pragmatics: vocabulary networks and implicature awareness"



Applying Linguistics: Speech Technology and AI

- Phonetics powers speech recognition and pronunciation feedback
- Morphology and syntax drive NLP parsing and text generation
- Semantics and pragmatics enable intent recognition in conversational AI
- Roles: linguistic engineer, computational linguist, AI product manager



Applying Linguistics: Communication, Translation, and Law



- Deep linguistic analysis boosts machine translation and cross-cultural adaptation
- Forensic linguistics identifies authors and voices for legal evidence
- Linguistics informs speech-language pathology and mental health messaging
- Gricean maxims sharpen persuasion, cooperation, and professional communication

Linguistics as a Lens: Analysis and Critical Thinking

- Pattern recognition, data-based argumentation, and systematic description skills
- Case study: step-by-step linguistic analysis of a real English text
- Core competencies and adaptable expertise for diverse career paths
- Recognize and counteract language myths and linguistic prejudice in professional and social contexts

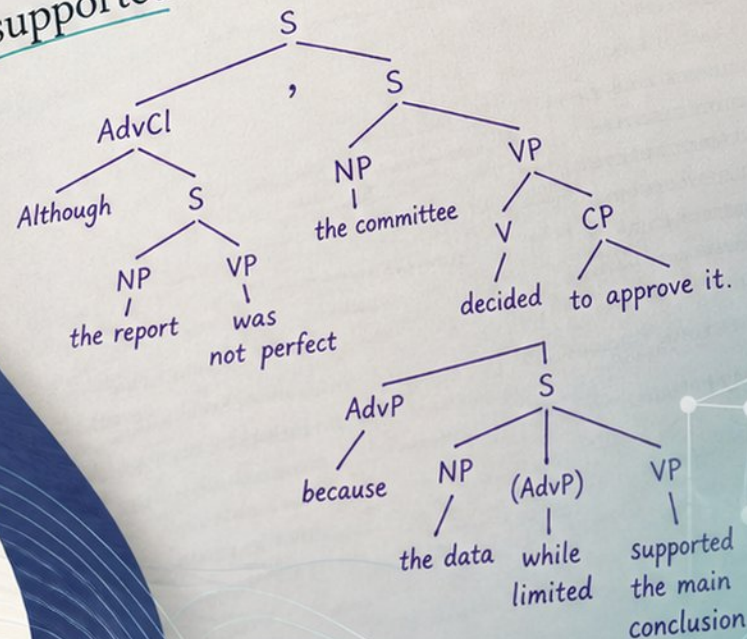
IPA:

[ə'ləʊ ðə rɪ'pɔ:t wəz nɒt 'pɜ:fɪkt]
[ðə kə'mɪti dɪ'saɪdɪd tə ə'pru:v ɪt]
[bɪ'kɒz ðə 'deɪtə , (waɪl) 'lɪmɪtɪd]
[sə'pɔ:tɪd ðə meɪn kən'klu:ʒən]

Although the report was not perfect,
the committee decided to approve it,
because the data, while limited,
supported the main conclusion.

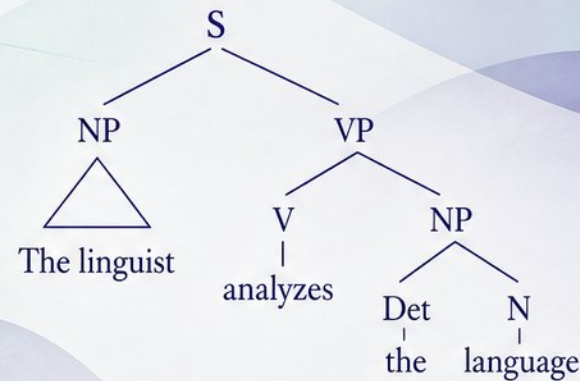
Implicature:

The data
may have
shortcomings,
but are good
enough to
support the
decision.



Key Takeaways and Continuing Your Journey

- Language is an integrated system: sounds, words, and meaning work together
- Linguistics analyzes language systematically at multiple levels simultaneously
- Connect linguistic insights to personal, professional, and lifelong learning goals
- Explore open textbooks, corpora, podcasts, professional organizations, and online communities



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