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Applied linguistics as a hybrid platform for linguistic/communicological research

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Applied linguistics has for quite some time been enjoying a fully justified autonomy within the general field of linguistics and together with such subdiciplines as sociolinguistics, ecolinguistics and communicology has turned out to be indeed extremely successful in providing and focusing on a number of research perspectives which have combined language as such with a rich plethora of contexts of its use. In this way, applied linguistics has, *per saldo***, contributed very strongly to the development of reflection on the nature of language both as a unique system of communication on Earth and its diverse applications. It is rather obvious that such a diversified plethora of areas of research will be expected to be continued well into the 21st century. Below, an interested reader will find a list of selected major domains of research in applied linguistics accompanied by some examples of research topics and followed by a selected bibliography in the afore mentioned area of research.**

1. **Adult language learning (mechanisms and outcomes)**
2. **Learner autonomy in native/foreign language learning**
3. **Child language studies**
4. **Cognitive styles and learner strategies in second/foreign language learning**
5. **Contrastive linguistics and error analysis**

6. **Communication in the professional niche**

7. **Communicology as a unification paradigm (language in the communicological perspective)**

8. **Communication in the global perspective (ecotourism)**

9. **Cultural-linguistic-communicative wellbeing**

10. **Business communication as a special instance of communication in the professional niche**

11. **Discourse analysis (spoken and written discourse)**

12. **The role of empathy in language use**

13. **Language and ecology (the meaning of ecological thinking in language studies)**

14. **Educational technology and language learning (native and foreign/second language learning in the context of computer assisted language learning, CALL)**

15. **Foreign language teaching methodology and teacher education**

16. **Forensic linguistics**

17. **Immersion education (the technology of total immersion)**

18. **Interpreting and translating**

19. **Language contact (competition and cooperation and language change/language shift)**

20. **Language death and language dormancy**

21. **Language and education in bilingual/multilingual/plurilingual settings**

22. **Lexicography and lexicology**

23. **Language and gender**

24. **Language and politics**

25. **Literacy in the ecolinguistic/communicological framework**

26. **Language planning and language policy**

27. **Language as performance and expression (language aesthetics)**

28. **Language-gesture-face-body interfaces (including ritual communication)**

29. **Language for special purposes**

30. **Language and the (mass) media**

31. **Mother tongue education (a cross-cultural perspective)**

32. **Psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics in the communicological perspective**

33. **Regional studies (ecolinguistics, ethnolinguistics)**

34. **Rhetoric and stylistics (effectiveness of communication in the niches, visual rhetoric)**

35. **Sign systems studies**

36. **Semiotics and communication (general semiotics versus applied and ecosemiotics, including phytosemiotics and zoosemiotics, ethnosemiotics, semiotic theory of culture)**

37. **Second/foreign language acquisition (the socio-pragmatic-ecological implications)**

38. **Evaluation, assessment, and testing in native/foreign language pedagogy**

39. **Language and non-language resources in transcommunicator communicative practices (mediations , negotiations, image formation)**

40. **The management of cultural-linguistic identity of communicators and cultures**

41. **The management of language in virtual communities (communication in the technotronic era)**

42. **The life of a natural language in communication orders**

43. **The life of natural languages in the Natural Language Global Arena**

44. **The life of natural languages in the cross-cultural perspective (linguistic landscape as approached by landscape linguistics)**

45. Teaching/learning language(s) through culture(s) and culture(s) through language(s) (image formation and cultural-linguistic stereotypes).

A list of selected major domains of research in applied linguistics

<u>**Language and the (mass) media:**</u>

Examples of research topics:

- Development of the information society

- Media in the network perspective

- Media and public discourse in times of war

- Speech genres on a selected talk show

- Identity formation in Chicano comedy

- Making sense of the mass-media world

- The language of media literacy

<u>**Discourse analysis (spoken and written discourse):**</u>

Examples of research topics:

-Inter/transculturality in talk-in-interaction

- Learning as a local accomplishment: documenting emerging second language communicative competencies

- Structuring discourse with the hands: gesture use in university lectures

- Human (e.g. women's) body image: critical discourse analysis

- Language ideological factors in regional dialect depictions

- Code-switching in uni-cultural and cross-cultural family conversations: constructing sociability together

<u>**Language contact (competition and cooperation) and language change/language shift:**</u>

Examples of research topics:

- languages in diaspora: linguistic, sociolinguistic, inter/transcultural and psycholinguistic approaches

- ethnic nepotism in dialect co-existence

<u>Lexicography and lexicology</u>:

Examples of research topics:

- Researching critical language practices in the formal classroom setting

- Mechanisms of lexicon generation

<u>Second/foreign language acquisition (the socio-pragmatic-ecological implications)</u>:

Examples of research topics:

- Ethics and ecology in instructed SLA research: tensions, challenges, opportunities

- Visual feedback: learner noticing of recasts during online tutoring sessions

  - Changing patterns of participation in children's L2 classroom conversations

  - Features of interlanguage in oral narratives: impact of literacy level

  - Phonological awareness training: impact on children's L2 learning and motivation

  - Interlanguage variation and transfer of learning

<u>Learner autonomy in native/foreign language learning</u>:

Examples of research topics:

  - Learners' voices in language learning

  - Learner autonomy: a case study of teacher and learner beliefs

<u>Language planning and language policy</u>:

Examples of research topics:

- Language attitudes and identity: taking majority views into account

  - Portfolios in EFL reading strategy instruction for university students

  - The impact of the globalization of English on linguistic minorities

  - Multilingualism: language policy and statehood

  - Incorporating academic restricted code in language-in-education planning

  - Evaluation policies for innovative language programs: what counts for whom

  - China's broadcasting language: a standard in transition

  - China's policy on elementary English education: what's behind it

<u>Foreign language teaching methodology and teacher education</u>:

Examples of research topics:

- Inside the EFL classroom: transnational teachers of English in Mexico
- Non-linguistic factors related to EFL learning in Japan
- An oriental (e.g. Chinese) perspective on western language teaching
- Professional autonomy of Japanese teachers of English
- Combating plagiarism: a study of guidelines for international students

<u>Literacy in the ecolinguistic/communicological framework</u>:

Examples of research topics:

- Learner in the ESP genre-based literacy approach
- Case studies of new literacy classrooms: focus on non-print composition
- Effects of age on literacy development

<u>Educational technology and language learning (native and foreign/second)</u>:

Examples of research topics:

- Meaning and phraseology: implications for language learning
- Formulaic sequences, corpora, and vocabulary teaching
  - Lexical range: impressions and measurements
  - Approaching the lexis of academic lectures

<u>Language and education in multilingual/plurilingual settings</u>:

Examples of research topics:

- Integrating language and content: a challenge from the mathematics classroom
- Language ideologies and tensions around dominant and 'vernacular' languages
- 'Petrolinguistics': the nexus between Arabic, English and oil
- Ideologies of nation and the fate of languages in the United States
- Minority language maintenance and the discourse of choice

Language for special purposes:

Examples of research topics:

- The research article genre
- Critical genre analysis of corporate disclosure documents
- The language of mediation and negotiations

Rhetoric and stylistics (effectiveness of communication in the niches):

Examples of research topics:

- Language in exile: the religious language of immigrants
- Language in exile: the power of the periphery in native language expression
- Toward a critical stylistic analysis for student writers
- Using inanimate subjects for self-reference in academic papers
- Rhetorical variation and L2 vocabulary development
- Power of the passive voice: why advise avoiding it?

Communication in the professional niche:

Examples of research topics:

- Ethical management of uncertainty in clinical trial enrollment in oncology
- Constructing the mental health client discursively as a whole person
- Framing the child at risk
- Managing uncertainty in physician-patient interactions
- The anatomy of interpretation in professional discourse settings
- The anatomy of business communication
- Wearing two hats: introducing 'customer-oriented' communications design to the open public sphere (e.g. the university)
- Business discourse: an applied linguist's critique of instructional materials on interaction management and presentation skills
- Designing foreign language courses for professional schools
- Workplace English-only court cases: prevailing myths of language use
- Communicative activity in plurilingual and pluricultural workplace environments in the UK

Sign language studies (general semiotics versus applied and ecosemiotics):

Examples of research topics:

- Signed languages as endangered languages: is their maintenance possible?
- Describing interpreting and underpinning signing populations as international/local language communities
- Applied sign linguistics: language, learning and legacy

Language and gender:

Examples of research topics:

- Classroom interaction in primary school from a gender perspective
- Shared values, different paths: situated literacy practices of second language learners
- Multilingualism literacies and gender
- Gender distinctions 'within' in various forms of discourse

Language and politics:

Examples of research topics:

- Political use of language and non-language resources
- The phenomenon of newspeak
- Semantics in the service of the language of politics
- The language of political persuasion
- Shaping public views
- Linguistic and communicative empowering of the citizen
- Persuasion and propaganda
- Ideology in political discourse

Language and ecology (the meaning of ecological thinking in language studies):

Examples of research topics:

- Mother earth/earth child: language, power, and symbolism for ecological survival
- The Earth Charter: its main discourses and an organizational challenge

- Magic and ecological destruction

- Natural language sustainability

- Ecological communication across/inside generations

- The power of the core-periphery model in natural language sustainability

- Natural language robustness as the main criterion of NL survivability.

<u>Cultural-linguistic-communicative wellbeing</u>:

Examples of research topics:

- The communicative syndromes of Oscar, Gullever and Petronius as indicative of linguistic-communicative comfort

- The overall communicative wellbeing of a transcommunicator and cultural-linguistic community

- Wellbeing and learning a new language

- Exploring the language of wellbeing and distress

- The positive social self and communication practices

- Universal cultural-linguistic-communicative wellbeing.

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