

APPLIED LINGUISTICS AND EDUCATIONAL LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

People who live in the word know that language is a part of tool to communicate each other in interaction. It deals with the human need of language that such as culture that must be increased and improved in that life. Language takes a part in human life specially in linguistics, either in educational field (educational linguistics) or in applied linguistics. It is very important to have a good understanding about the concept of applied linguistics and educational linguistics. Both of them are almost similar but they are actually different. By having knowledge about them, we can differentiate and make relationship between them. So that's why, here the writers try to make a brief summary about applied linguistics and educational linguistics.

Keywords : *linguistics, applied and educational linguistics.*

INTRODUCTION

This short paper is aimed to give a summary on applied linguistics and educational linguistics. The topics that will be covered in this paper are varied. Among them are: what applied linguistics and educational linguistics are, the relationship, the similarity and difference between them, and also the scope of each of the two disciplines.

However, before starting talking about those topics, the writers would like to begin the discussion with some definitions of linguistics offered by experts. It is because when one talks about applied linguistics or educational linguistics, he or she could not ignore the concept of linguistics and that he or she should have a clear idea of what linguistics is. Therefore, in the first part of

the discussion, the writers present a brief summary of what linguistics is.

DISCUSSION

In this part, the writers present some discussion on what linguistics is, what applied linguistics is, what educational linguistics is, the relation between applied linguistics and educational linguistics, why education needs linguistics theory, the similarity between applied linguistics and educational linguistics, the difference between applied linguistics and educational linguistics, the scope of applied linguistics, and the scope of educational linguistics. To begin with, the following is expert's definition of linguistics.

▪ **Definition of Linguistics**

In defining the term, experts had come to different ideas of what linguistics is. Richard and Schmidt (2002), for example, defined linguistics as “the study of language as a system of human communication”. They further stated that linguistics includes many different approaches to the study of language and many different areas of investigation, for example sound systems (phonetics phonology), sentence structure (syntax), relationships between language and cognition (cognitive linguistics), meaning systems (semantics, pragmatics, functions of language), as well as language and social factors (sociolinguistics). Then, several specialized branches of linguistics have also developed in combination with other disciplines, e.g. applied linguistics, anthropological linguistics, psycholinguistics, forensic linguistics.

From this definition, then, one can say that linguistics is a field of study that concerns with language. In the other words, linguistics is the scientific study of language. As it is concerned with language, then, the object of its study will be things that are related to language, such as: sound system, sentence structure, meaning, and other language components.

▪ **Definition of Applied Linguistics**

The following are some definitions of applied linguistics offered by experts:

a. Richards and Schmidt (2002) in *Dictionary of Language Teaching & Applied Linguistics* defined applied linguistics as:

- the study of second and foreign language learning and teaching.

- the study of language and linguistics in relation to practical problems, such as lexicography, translation, speech pathology, etc. Applied linguistics uses information from sociology, psychology, anthropology, and information theory as well as from linguistics in order to develop its own theoretical models of language and language use, and then uses this information and theory in practical areas such as syllabus design, speech therapy, language planning, stylistics, etc.

b. Brumfit (1997) stated that applied linguistics is “the theoretical and empirical investigation of real-world problems in which language is a central issue”.

c. Kridalaksana (2008) defined applied linguistics as “*istilah umum bagi pelbagai cabang linguistik yang memanfaatkan deskripsi, metode dan hasil penelitian linguistik untuk pelbagai keperluan praktis; cabang-cabang seperti pengajaran bahasa, leksikografi, penerjemahan, patologi bahasa, dsb. termasuk dalam linguistik terapan*”.

From those definitions, then, one can infer that applied linguistics is the engineering of linguistics. In the other words, applied linguistics is using linguistics to solve practical problems.

▪ **Definition of Educational Linguistics**

The following are some definitions of educational linguistics offered by some experts:

a. Hornberger and Spolsky (in Spolsky and Hult 2008) defined educational linguistics as “an area of study that integrates the research tools of linguistics and other related

disciplines of the social sciences in order to investigate holistically the broad range of issues related to language and education”.

- b. Richards and Schmidt (2002) in *Dictionary of Language Teaching & Applied Linguistics* defined educational linguistics as “a term sometimes used to refer to a branch of applied linguistics which deals with the relationship between language and education.
- c. Christie and Unsworth stated “educational linguistics is concerned with the study of language in teaching and learning”. As such, it has interests in the nature of the linguistic system and its role in learning, as well as in what kinds of knowledge about language should be taught to children.
- d. Kridalaksana (2008) defined educational linguistics as “*penerapan linguistik dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran bahasa di sekolah atau di lingkungan lain*”.

From those definitions, one may say that educational linguistics is the application of linguistics to solve problems in education. Similarly, educational linguistics is using linguistics to solve practical problems in education.

▪ **Relation between Applied Linguistics and Educational Linguistics**

From the definitions of applied linguistics and educational linguistics above, one may underline that the relation between applied linguistics and educational linguistics lies in the fact that applied linguistics is the precursors of educational linguistics. In other words, applied linguistics is wider than educational linguistics or it is the umbrella of educational linguistics. This

concept is strengthened by Blumfit’s theory which states that “educational linguistics is inevitably a sub-branch of applied linguistics, the study of language in real-world situations where the problems and conventions are defined by non-linguists, whether the general public or language professionals such as (e.g.) teachers or translators”.

▪ **Why Education Needs Linguistics Theory**

Spolsky and Hult (2008) stated that there are two main arguments for teaching KAL (knowledge about language). They are:

- a. A deeper understanding of language deserves a place in any liberal curriculum because of its long-term intellectual benefits; if it is important for children to understand their bodies and their social environment, it is at least as important for them to understand the faculty which makes social life possible.
- b. KAL improves the language skills of writing, reading, speaking and listening.

The other reasons:

- a. Language is mostly learned from experience of usage rather than inherited genetically.
- b. Language is fundamental to every subject, and not just to those subjects where it is the primary object of study.

Next, Blumfit stated that the individual contribution that linguists can make to educational work is twofold. First, they can provide technical understanding deriving from linguistic, psycho- or socio-linguistic research to address educational problems, or to enable educational practitioners to become more proficient in addressing them

themselves. Second, they can contribute by collaborating with colleagues, or by themselves operating both as linguistic and as educational researchers and teachers, understanding the inevitable "messiness" of classroom and broader educational practice, in which so many agendas are competing for attention in limited space.

▪ **The Similarity between Applied Linguistics and Educational Linguistics**

The similarity between applied linguistics and educational linguistics lies on the fact that both applied linguistics and educational linguistics concern with linguistics in relation with real-life problems or with language in relation to practical problems. However, educational linguistics is narrower than applied linguistics because it only deals with the study of language in relation to teaching and learning. Whereas applied linguistics may include other things beside teaching and learning matters.

▪ **The Difference between Applied Linguistics and Educational Linguistics**

The following are some differences between Applied Linguistics and Educational Linguistics offered by some experts:

- Researchers suggest that educational linguistics is to be separated from AL (cf. Hornberger 2001; Hult 2008; Spolsky 2008).
- Not all interests in AL are thus necessarily tied to educational issues,

which is why Bernard Spolsky defined a new field that could be considered a subfield within the larger discipline of AL in its wider sense the scope of EL under this definition is fairly wide, ranging from issues such as ‘vernacular dialect use at school’ to ‘second language phonological acquisition’ and ‘teacher training in linguistics’.

- Spolsky now views EL’s core task as “providing the instruments for designing language policy and for implementing language education management” (Spolsky 2008: 3).

- At the University of Giessen, EL focuses on the conceptual and methodological combination of linguistic and language-pedagogical research with regard to socially relevant issues and questions related to education and teaching.

▪ **The Scope of Applied Linguistics**

Experts agreed that applied linguistics is a broad and macro-level term that includes many areas of concern. Brumfit (in Liddicoat 2010) stated that “applied linguistics is a theoretical and empirical investigation of real world problems in which language is a central issue “. Therefore, the combination of language and real world problems is the constituent feature of applied linguistics. The following table shows some activities which have been included under the umbrella of applied linguistics (based on AILA scientific commissions):

<p>Adult language learning Child language Communication in the professions Contrastive linguistics and error analysis Discourse analysis Educational technology and language learning Evaluation, assessment, and testing Foreign language teaching methodology and teacher education Forensic linguistics Immersion education Interpreting and translating Language and business Language and ecology Language and education in multilingual settings</p>	<p>Language and the media Language contact and language change Language for special purposes Language planning Learner autonomy in language learning Lexicography and lexicology Literacy Mother tongue education Psycholinguistics Rhetoric and stylistics Second language acquisition Sign language Language and gender</p>
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Next, Spolsky (in Davies 2007) stated “applied linguistics (is now) a cover term for sizeable group of semi-autonomous disciplines, each dividing its parentage and allegiances between the formal study of language and other relevant fields, and each working to develop its own methodologies and principles.”

From those ideas, then, it can be inferred that the scope of applied linguistics is really broad or that it may cover a lot of things such as: language technology, language teaching, education, language acquisition, translation, language policy, and many other things.

▪ **The Scope of Educational Linguistics**

The following are some explanation of the scope of educational linguistics proposed by some experts:

a. Spolsky (1972) stated that educational linguistics is a discipline whose primary task would be to offer information relevant to the

formulation of language education policy and to its implementation.

b. Hornberger stated that educational linguistics specializes itself on issues in linguistic and cultural diversity and approaches to language learning and teaching that embraces local, national, and international interests. Then, he also said that educational linguistics include second language acquisition, language choice, maintenance and shift, language and ethnicity, descriptive analysis of speech acts and discourse, educational implications of linguistics diversity, language planning, bilingual education, spoken interaction in professional setting, and biliteracy.

From those ideas, one can conclude that educational linguistics will begin to work with teachers and it will look at how language works in education, how language works in a multilingual education environment, how people

acquire language of the disciplines and other things in education.

understand some concepts of the two fields of study.

CONCLUSION

Those are some discussion on applied linguistics and educational linguistics. Hopefully, the explanation presented in this paper would help the readers to get a brief description of applied linguistic and educational linguistics, and also help them to

Finally, the writers realize that this paper still needs to be improved in order to make it more comprehensible and informative. For that reason, both of the writers are open for suggestion and criticism from the whole readers, so that they can improve the quality of this paper.

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