**Prof.Radia Benyelles**

**Linguistics /L1**

**Course number 1**

**Levels of language**



levels of language refer to the way language itself is organised and hence analysed by linguists

 **Phonetics, Phonology**

1. **Definition**

 This is the level of sounds. One must distinguish here between the set of possible human sounds, which constitutes the area of *phonetics* proper

**Phonology** is concerned with classifying the sounds of language and with saying how the subset used in a particular language is utilised, for instance what distinctions in meaning can be made on the basis of what sounds.

1. **Some useful concepts**

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|   | ***A phoneme*** is the smallest contrastive unit in the sound system of a language. In many phonological theories the phoneme is the smallest contrastive unit in the sound system of a particular language or dialect. It is the minimal unit that distinguishes between meanings of words

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| ***Phonetics*** is divided into three types: |

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1. Articulatory phonetics : production of sounds
2. Acoustic phonetics : transmission of sounds
3. Auditory phonetics : perception of sounds.
* ***Sounds*** can be divided into consonants and vowels. The former can be characterised according to 1) *place, 2) manner of articulation and 3) voice (voiceless or voiced).*
* For vowels one uses a coordinate system called a vowel quandrangle( A **vowel diagram** or **vowel chart** is a schematic arrangement of the [vowels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vowel)) within which actual vowel values are located.