

Difference between Language, Langue, and Parole

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Discuss the difference between language, langue, and parole.

Language, langue, and parole are vital linguistic concepts. In his Course in General Linguistics, Ferdinand de Saussure, a Swiss linguist, introduced them in the early 20th century. Saussure's ideas laid the foundation for many modern linguistic theories. Let us explore these concepts and understand their differences.

Language: It is a broad term encompassing all forms of human communication, including spoken, written, and signed languages. It is a system of symbols and rules used to convey meaning. Language is essential for human interaction and is shared by a community.

Langue: This French term refers to a language's abstract, systematic rules and conventions. It is the structure or grammar that exists in the minds of the speakers of that language. Langue includes the rules for forming sentences, using words, and pronunciation. It is a social product and remains constant over time, shared by a community of speakers.

Parole: On the other hand, Parole is the actual use of language in real situations. It is the way individuals speak, write, or sign in specific contexts. Parole includes personal idiosyncrasies, variations, and the spontaneous aspect of language. While langue is stable, parole is dynamic and changes with each speaker's use.

To sum up, language is the overarching system of communication. Langue is the structured, communal aspect of this system, while parole is the individual, practical use of it. Understanding these distinctions helps us appreciate how language functions both as a shared system and a personal tool. Saussure's such concepts continuously influence linguistic studies.