

## Introduction to Theoretical and Applied Linguistics Course

### Your home assignment

#### A. Try and answer the following questions

1. What is linguistics and what is not?
2. What is Language?
3. What is the essence of human language? Is it a product of human experience and thought or is a productive energy?
4. Is it a thinking tool? Is it a learning tool? Is it just a weapon in human's struggle for life? Is language just a weapon?
5. Is it cultural milieu? Or is it another name of culture?
6. Is Language a mechanism? Is it an organism? Is it a supra-organism?
7. Is it just a system of signs? Is language a code? Or is it something different? Is it a personal identity symbol?
8. Is language a symbolic system? /Ernst Cassirer/
9. Is language a construction tool? Is language a reconstruction tool?
10. Is language just Culture? Is language a culture construction tool? What is culture? What is not culture?
11. Is there a one and only super-function of human language? What is it? Is it a cognitive or just a communicative one?
12. Do birds or bees possess a linguistic ability?
13. What is so human about human language?
14. Is music a language?  
What is a language? What is the difference between two or more human languages?
15. What is the general structure of human language?
16. What is linguistic capability of human?
17. What is good knowledge of language?
18. What are the key functions of human language?
19. What levels of linguistic performance should be distinguished?
20. What is really good language practice?
21. What can you say about languages of Russia?

**B. Choose one or two of these questions (above) and try and write a one page essay on it. Try and take a personal stand in the issue, compare different points of view, find your own arguments and examples, draw conclusions, acknowledge the boundaries of your approach.**