

Exploring Clinical Linguistics: The Interface Between Language and Disorder

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Introduction:

Clinical Linguistics is a relatively new discipline that emerged in the late 1970s. It applies linguistic science to the study of language disabilities (Crystal, 2001). It bridges linguistics, psychology, and speech therapy to address communication disorders caused by developmental, neurological, or psychological factors.

Practical Impact:

Clinical linguistics improves diagnosis and therapy planning, provides linguistic evidence for clinical assessments, and promotes collaboration among linguists, therapists, and doctors. It transforms linguistic theory into practical tools that help restore human communication.

Key Areas of Study:

- Speech and language impairments (stuttering, aphasia)
- Developmental disorders (autism, specific language impairment)
- Neurolinguistic applications (brain injury, stroke)
- Assessment and intervention through linguistic analysis.

Reflection:

Clinical linguistics demonstrates how linguistic inquiry contributes to real-world problem solving. It represents applied linguistics in healthcare—using linguistic knowledge to improve lives and to restore the power of communication.

Linguistic Tools Used:

- Phonetics & Phonology: identifying sound production issues
- Morphology & Syntax: analysing sentence structures
- Semantics & Pragmatics: studying meaning and social context.

References:

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