

글로벌 석학초청 강연회

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You, the linguist

We are all users of language. Our lives and everything we do would be hugely difficult if we had no way to plan, report and discuss things with others. In particular, our family and social lives would be unthinkable without communication through language. Not all of us have made linguistics our job, of course. Linguists are scientists who analyse and describe the structure of language. They not only use language, they also know how it works, and they can describe its features and components in abstract terms, and explain why and how each part is necessary or useful for communication.

But such abstract knowledge about language is actually not the exclusive property of linguistics. This talk will describe research that shows how we all acquire and make use of abstract knowledge about our language. Even in the earliest stages of learning a language, babies are compiling abstract knowledge about it. Such knowledge is very helpful in many talking and listening situations – we use abstract knowledge, for instance, in the everyday task of adjusting to newly-encountered speakers. On the other hand, abstract knowledge is so easy to use that sometimes it can actually prove unhelpful – this may happen, for example, in learning a second language as adults. We cannot avoid the use of abstract language knowledge, because it is a natural part of the way we use language. So, in a way, we are all linguists.

부탁말씀:

강연 후 간단한 샌드위치를 제공 해 드릴 예정입니다. 참석예정인 분은 6월 15일(목)까지 “OO명 참석예정” 이라는 메시지를 보내주시면 도움이 될 것 같습니다.

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