

Degree iii, (English Honours)

Paper – VIII

Section – 5

Subject- **Linguistics**

Lecture-1

Language and Parole

Ferdinand de Saussure made a sharp distinction between three main terms --- **le langage**, **la langue**, and **la parole**, and concentrated on two of them. He envisaged **le langage** (human speech as a whole) to be composed of two aspects, which he called **langue** (the language system) **parole** (the act of speaking).

Le langage

Le langage has no object equivalent in English. It embraces the faculty of language in all its various forms and manifestations.

Le langage is the faculty of human speech present in all normal human beings due to heredity, but which requires the correct environmental stimuli for proper development. It is our faculty to talk to each other. Taken as a whole it is many-sided and heterogeneous; straddling several areas simultaneously--- physical, psychological, and physiological--- it belongs to the individual and to society; we cannot put it into any category of

human facts for we cannot discover its unity. **langage** thus is the universal behaviour trait --- more of interest to the anthropologist or biologist than to the linguist who commences his study with **langue** and **parole**. To quote **Saussure** **La langue est pour nous le langage moins la parole**— language is for us **le langage** less speech.

La langue

Langue, according to Saussure, is the totally (**the collective fact**) of a language, deducible from an examination of the memories of all the language users. It is a storehouse, the sum of word-images in the minds of individuals. It is not to be confused with human speech (**language**) of which it is only definite part, though certainly an essential one.

By, Arshad Khan

Dept. of English

J N College Madhubani