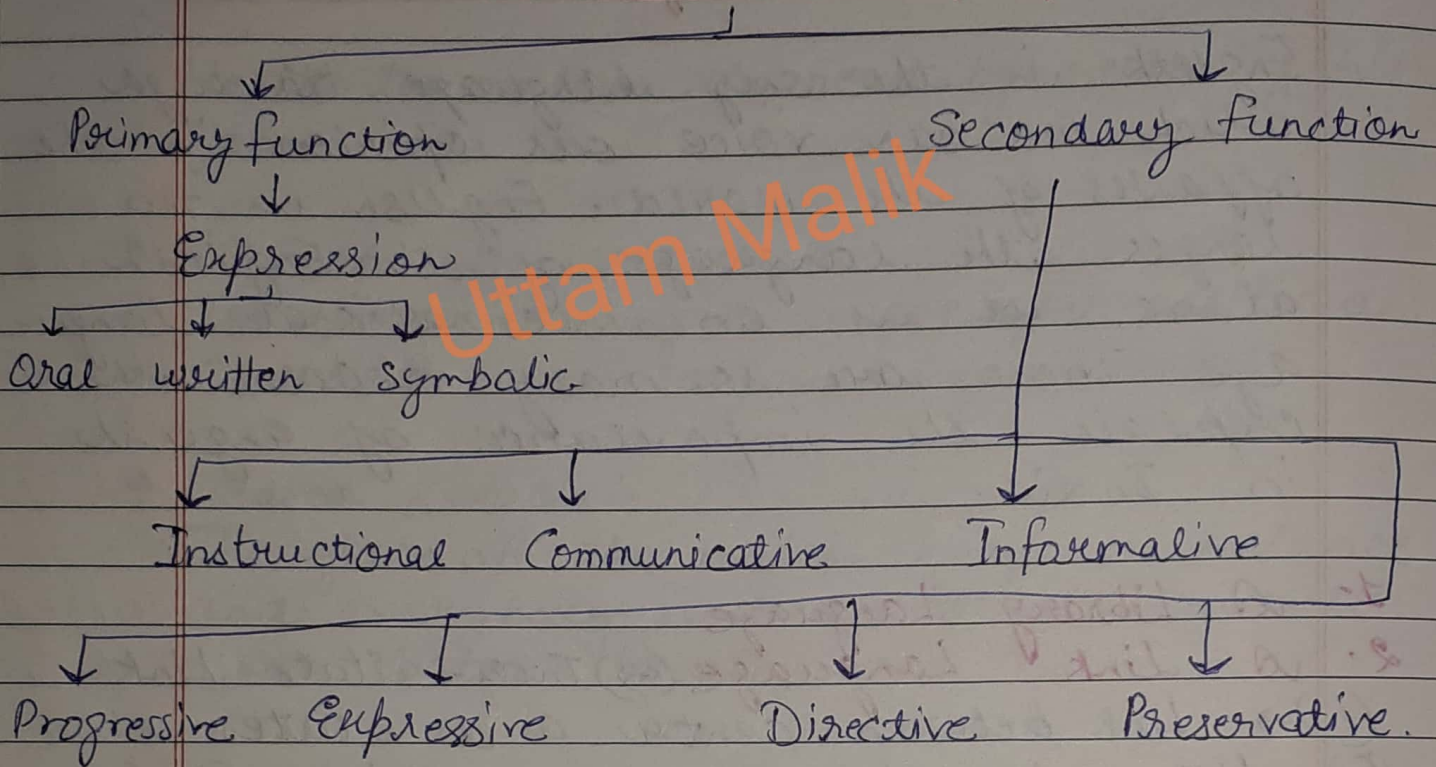


Function of Language



PRIMARY FUNCTION

The primary function of language is expression. It is only through language that one is able to express one's ideas, feelings and thoughts. All other functions of language are based on the expressive function. There are three ways to express oneself with the help of language. They are -

- (i) Oral (ii) Written (iii) Symbolic

SECONDARY FUNCTION

1. The Industrial Function - Language is used for providing instructions in every field of

life. Instructions in school, colleges, offices, railway stations etc. are given through language. Notices, advertisement, news papers, admission procedure, regarding instructions are also given in written language. All types of official forms show written instructions.

2. Communicative Function :- Language is the means of communication and it helps to send information and communicate our feelings, ideas to others. The letters, newspapers and books are the written form of communication whereas radio and television are the speech form of communication. **Uttam Malik**

3. Information Function :- As an informative medium, language passes information from one person to the other. It is with the help of language that a teacher passes information to the students in the classroom. It is an important function of language.

4. Expressive Function :- The main function of language is the expressive function. We can express our feelings, ideas, and thoughts through the medium of language.

In addition to it, we are in a position to arouse the desired feelings among the readers or audience. In short, communication of thoughts from one person to another is the main function of language. Right communication involves the right use of language. The right use of language means right pronunciation and right intonation.

5. Directive Function:- Language helps in giving directions to others. For example, in the examination hall, the superintendent gives directions to all students about the rule and regulations which everyone has to follow during the examination. Thus with the use of language one is able to give directions to others.

6. The Preservation Function:- Language is an important gift of God to human beings. It is not only the means of communication of ideas and thoughts but also helps to preserve those ideas and thoughts for the future generations. The books preserve the knowledge in the written form whereas CDs and DVDs preserve knowledge and information in the audio-visual form. It is one of the important functions of language.

7. Progressive Function: Language is a powerful instrument which made human civilization. Language of a country contributes directly in its development and ~~revolutionary~~ ^{progressive} changes. Thus progress and changes of man and society are interrelated.

It is rightly said Halliday (1975), Child initial utterances have distinct instructions: instrumental, regulatory, interactional, personal, heuristic, imaginative, ritual, and representational. It is through the use of language that a child a biological animal becomes a social being. Language also functions as a vehicle of literature.

By Uttam Malik