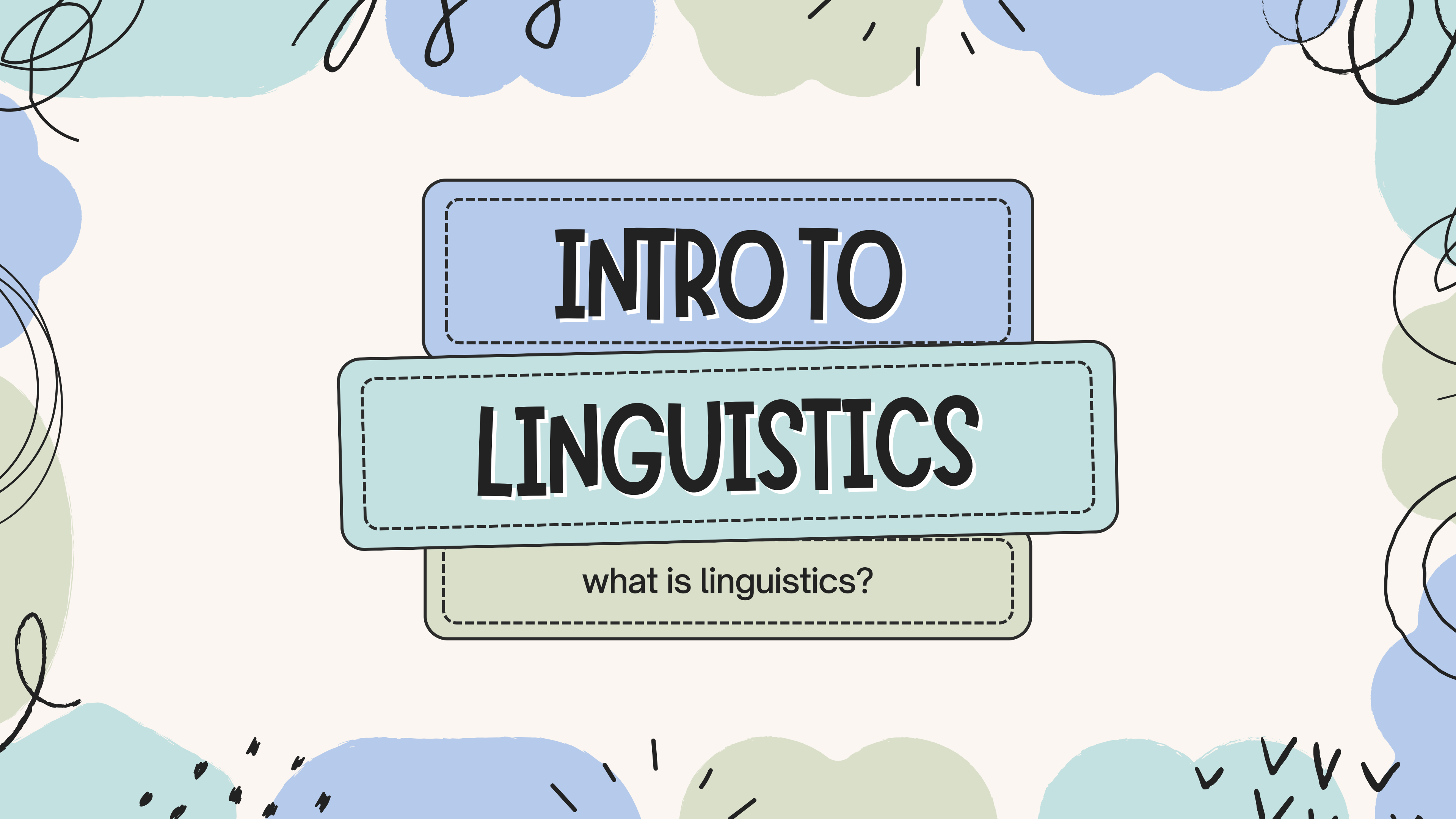


The background features a light cream color with stylized, hand-drawn clouds in shades of blue and green. Black ink swirls and short vertical lines are scattered around the clouds, adding a whimsical, artistic touch.

INTRO TO

LINGUISTICS

what is linguistics?

(human)

Linguistics is the scientific study of **language**.^{[1][2][3]} Specific areas of linguistic description and analysis are **syntax** (rules governing the structure of sentences), **semantics** (meaning), **morphology** (structure of words), **phonetics** (speech sounds and equivalent manual gestures in **sign languages**), **phonology** (the abstract sound system of a particular language, and analogous systems of sign languages), and **pragmatics** (how the context of use contributes to meaning).^[4] Subdisciplines such as **biolinguistics** (the study of the biological variables and evolution of language) and **psycholinguistics** (the study of psychological factors in human language) bridge many of these divisions.^[5]

* not being a polyglot!

What is language?



What is language?

- Spanish
- ASL
- 👍 😊 🏎️ 🍏
- Python
- Bird song
- Music
- Traffic lights
- Dog barks

Communication ≠ Language



What makes human language different?

- Charles Hockett's 16 “design features”
 - **Productivity**
 - **Displacement**
 - Arbitrariness - how does “apple” represent an apple
 - **Duality of Patterning**
 - Discreteness
 - **Cultural Transmission**
 - Vocal-auditory channel
 - Sign language?
 - Physiological
 - Prevarication, Reflexiveness, Learnability
 - Dynamic
 - Systematic
- 



Why study language & linguistics?

- To understand the human mind
 - To understand people & society
 - To understand culture & history
 - To understand human diversity
 - To build better technology
- 

Why study language & linguistics?

- To understand the human mind (cognitive science/neuroscience)
- To understand people & society (social science)
- To understand culture & history (humanities)
- To understand human diversity (anthropology)
- To build better technology (computer science)

Languages of The World

- What is a “language”
 - Mandarin vs. Cantonese
 - Arabic vs. Arabic?
 - mutual intelligibility
 - social construct
 - “A language is a dialect with an army and navy”
- ~ 7700 languages in the world
- ~ 830 in PNG!





How do linguists study language?

- Scientific Process
 - Observation → Question → Hypothesis → Prediction → Data → Revision

Swahili	English
mtu	person
watu	people
mtoto	child
watoto	children
mgeni	guest
wageni	guests

Swahili	English
mti	tree
miti	trees
mwaka	year
miaka	years
muhogo	cassava
mihogo	cassavas



Prescriptivism vs. Descriptivism

- How language should be used
 - Follows rules of a preferred or standard variety
 - Emphasizes “correct” vs. “incorrect” usage
 - English class
- How language is actually used
 - Observes patterns across speakers and communities
 - Asks what rules speakers naturally follow
 - Treats dialects and varieties as systematic

Linguists are descriptivists!



The Branches of Linguistics

Fall

Week 2 & 3: Writing Systems

Week 4 & 5: **Phonetics**

Week 6 & 7: **Phonology**

Week 8 & 9: **Morphology**

Week 10 & 11: **Syntax**

Week 12 & 13:

Semantics/Pragmatics

Week 14: Diachronic/Historical
Linguistics

Spring

Language Acquisition

Neurolinguistics

Sociolinguistics

Language Revitalization

Computational Linguistics

Technology

Field Work



Class Project: Constructing a Language (Conlanging)

1. Language name
2. Speakers
3. Location
4. Modality
5. Three design goals