Language is special
⇒ Word magic, tiny causes for huge effects.
⇒ Action at a distance, sentences true here because of events there.
⇒ Human vs non-human animals
⇒ Infinite scope, compositionality.

Language is not special
⇒ Just one more form of intelligent collaboration—games, family, hunting
⇒ Natural meaning exists, too; spots means measles, etc.
⇒ Atoms have an infinite range of possible combinations.

Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics

Syntax: how words relate to other words. 'John is easy to please' vs 'John is eager to please.'
Semantics: how words relate to their meanings.
Pragmatics: how words relate to their uses. "X has neat handwriting and is always punctual."

Syntax: *Use and mention*

Fish have gills, 'Fish' has four letters, 'Fish' is a word of English, "Fish" names a word of English

Syntax: *The subject/predicate analysis*

Aristotle was a philosopher	Kenyans are good long distance runners
No one lives forever	More than 90% of animals are insects
Whales are mammals	The bridge collapsed because a bolt snapped
The mullet is a fish	June said to stop

Semantics: *The 'Fido'-Fido theory theory of meaning*. A word means what it stands for.

⇒ Phrases, sentences, texts have meaning, not just words.
⇒ Not every word is a term; 'or,' 'of,' 'however,' 'very,'…
⇒ Not obviously right even for terms
    ⇒ 7 = the square root of 49; Superman = Clark Kent (identity)
    ⇒ Santa Claus is supposed to have a beard (non-referring terms)
    ⇒ Santa Claus doesn't exist (negative existentials)
    ⇒ Lois loves Superman, not Clark Kent (attitudes)

Pragmatics: *Implicature*

⇒ The captain was sober today.
⇒ I am too 5' tall.

Pragmatics: *Indirect speech acts*

⇒ Can you file this?
⇒ I want you to file this.
⇒ You should file this.

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