

# المحاضرة الثانية

المادة: مقدمة في اللغويات العامة

الفرقة: الثالثة انجليزي – عام

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# Macro-functions

A better way of describing the “macro-functions” is to call them “metafunctions”. A metafunction is one which is capable of describing one or more other functions.

## **1. The ideational function**

**With a number of micro functions identified before we can see that there is a common mental or conceptualizing process involved. In using language to identify things, or as an instrument of thought, or to provide a record, we are using language as a symbolic code to represent the world around us. The ideational function, then, is that function in which we conceptualize the world for our own benefit and that of others. In a sense we bring the world into being linguistically.**

## **2. The interpersonal function**

**Several of the micro functions are concerned with the relationship between ourselves and other people or things. In addition to using language to conceptualize the world we are also using it as a personal medium. We gain much of our sense of identity, of who and what we are, from our relationships both with animate and inanimate things, and language is an essential part of that personalizing process. We could say that rather than bringing the world into being, this function is concerned with the way we bring ourselves into being linguistically.**

**Using language as a means of communication, for purposes of phatic communication, or to release nervous/physical energy, involves activities in which we are prioritizing the interpersonal function of language. And it is possible for people to be able to perform this function very well without necessarily being able to perform the ideational function so well. There are those whose interpersonal skills and general ability to project themselves are quite developed but whose conceptual powers and level of understanding may be limited. And vice versa, of course.**