



## The status of linguistics as a science

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In his seminal discussion of the status of linguistics as a science, Edward Sapir urged linguists to look 'beyond pretty patterns' and relate the study of language to 'human conduct' in general. In a similar vein, William Labov cautioned against a 'monastic' linguistics, uprooting language too far from its biological and social foundations. Building on this empirical perspective, I will explore avenues of studying language that connect it to its dual roots: to brain processes which make language possible in the first place, and to multilingual societies which it typically serves. A central issue I will discuss within this perspective is the interactions among language, brain, and behavior.