



LINGUISTICS

THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

BY •

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- 1. PRAGMATICS**
- 2. DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**
- 3. Language and Brain**
- 4. First Language Acquisition**
- 5. Second Language Acquisition / Learning**
- 6. Language, History and Change**
- 7. Language and Regional Variation**
- 8. Language and Culture**
- 9. Language and Social Variation**

WHAT'S LANGUAGE ? □

Language is a social system



Language is a system of signs for □
encoding and decoding
information.

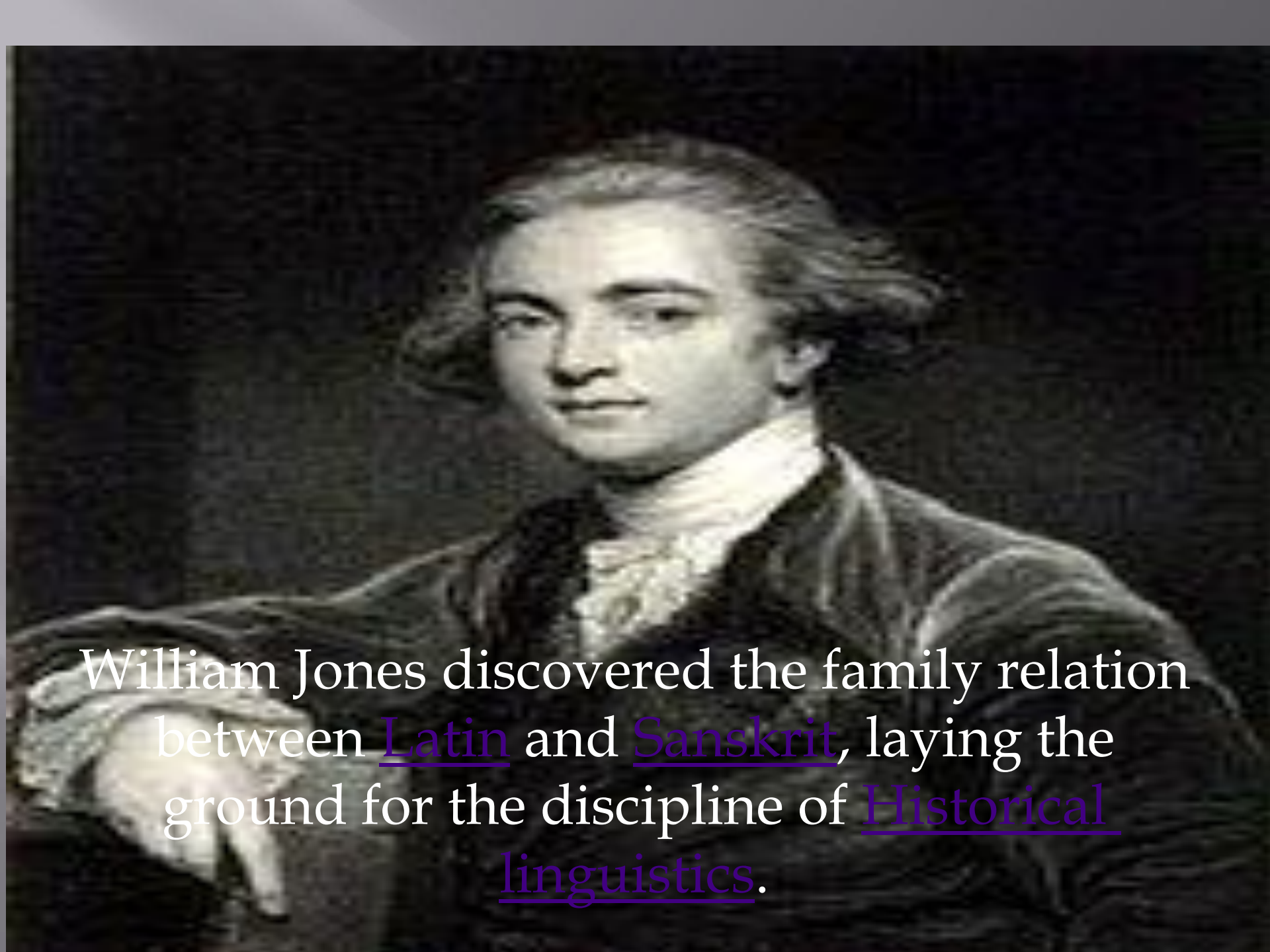
language is a formal system of signs □
governed by grammatical rules of
combination to communicate
meaning.

- ▣ This definition stresses the fact that
- ▣ human languages can be described as
- ▣ closed structural systems consisting of
- ▣ rules that relate particular signs to
 - ▣ particular meanings.

- ▣ One definition sees language
- ▣ primarily as the mental faculty
that
- ▣ allows humans to undertake
- ▣ linguistic behaviour: to learn
- ▣ languages and produce and
 - ▣ understand utterances

Language is a tool for
communication

▣ Why do people use language ?

A black and white portrait of William Jones, a young man with long, wavy hair, wearing a dark coat and a white cravat. He is looking slightly to the right of the viewer.

William Jones discovered the family relation between Latin and Sanskrit, laying the ground for the discipline of Historical linguistics.



Ferdinand de Saussure developed
the structuralist approach to
studying language.



Noam Chomsky is one of the most important linguistic theorists of the 20th century.