**Lecture 1:**

**An Introduction to Applied Linguistics**

**Definitions**

According to the website of the International Association for Applied Linguistics,

« Applied linguistics is an inter-disciplinary field of research and practice dealing with practical problems of language and communication that can be identified, analysed or solved by applying available theories, methods, or results of linguistics or by developing new theoretical and methodological frameworks in linguistics to work on these problems.»

According to Corder (1973),

«Applied linguistics is the utilization of the knowledge about the nature of language achieved by linguistic research for the improvement of the efficiency of some practical tasks in which language is a central component.»

Applied linguistics is defined by Schmitt and Celci-Muricia (2002) as follows, « (it) is using what we know about (a) language, (b) how it is learned, and (c) how it is used, in order to achieve some purpose or solve some problems in the real world.»

The focus of applied linguistics was pointed to by Grabe (2002)

«the focus of applied linguistics is on trying to resolve language-based problems that people encounter in the real world, whether they be learners, teachers, supervisors, academics, lawyers, service providers, those who need social services, test makers, policy developers, dictionary makers, translators, or a whole range of business clients.»

- According to Davis and Elder (2004), applied linguistics concerns itself with solving problems like:

- How can we teach languages better?

- How can we improve the training of translators and interpretors?

- How can we evaluate a school bilingual program?

- How can we helpfully discuss the language of a text?

-What can we offer the ministry of education on a proposal to introduce a new medium of instruction?

- What advise should we give a defence lawyer on the authenticity of a police transcript of an interview with a suspect?