

Synchrony and Diachrony

- The concepts of Synchrony and Diachrony were given by **Ferdinand de Saussure**, a Swiss linguist of early 20th Century, a Father of linguists



(1857 – 1913)

Synchrony and Diachrony

- He considered language as very comprehensive entity that required distinct approaches for making its study systematic and scientific.
- **Synchrony** and Diachrony are the two approaches of studying a language.
- Synchrony, also called **Descriptive linguistics**.
- Synchrony studies the different aspects of a language existing at a **particular point of time**

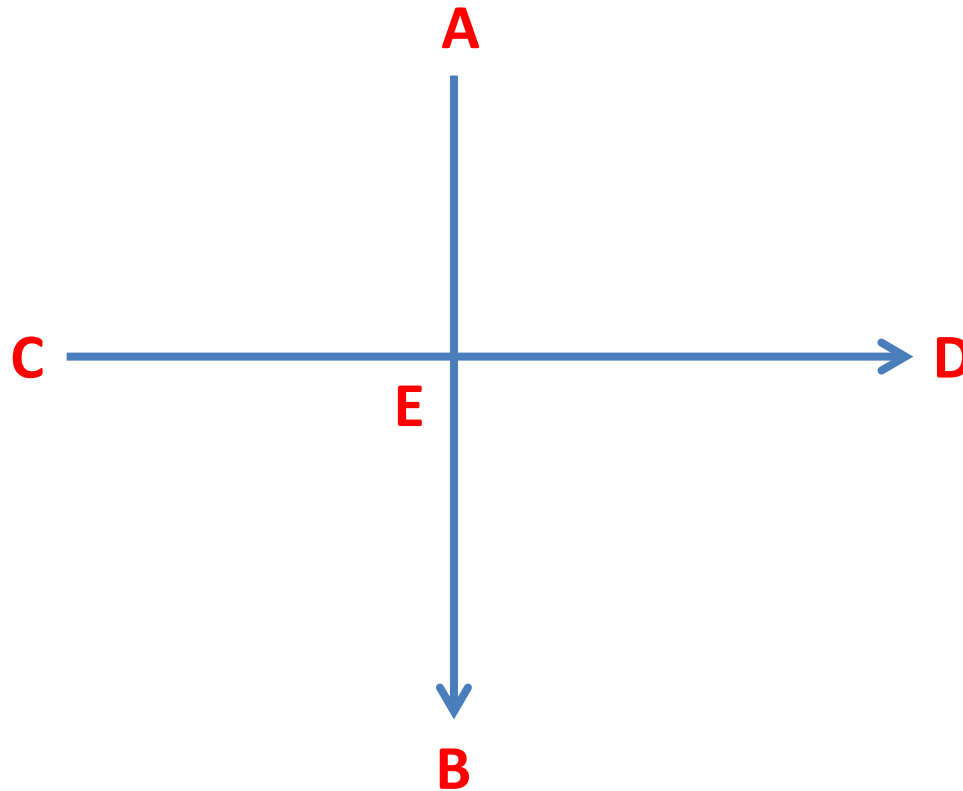
Synchrony

- It study various aspects of a language are described analyzed without taking into account the historical aspects of it.
- Factors taken into consideration in synchronic study are:
 - i. How a language operates.**
 - ii. What are its components help in operation.**
 - iii. How different components are inter-related**
 - iv. How it work in harmony within the whole system of language.**

Diachrony

- Diachronic is also called Historical Linguistic
- It Studies language with historical perspective.
- It takes into account the changes that take place in a language with passage of time.
- It is a fact that any living language changes under the influence of different kinds of factors while running down the lane of history.
- In Diachronic study, all kinds of changes that occur in a language since its origin is described

- Synchronic study is more important than diachronic study in linguistics.
- Representation of the two approaches are as:



- In this diagram '**AB**' is the imaginary *diachronic axis* that indicates the path of a language since its origin.
- **CD** is the *synchronic axis* that intersects **AB** at point **E** . It shows the study of a language as it existed at point **E** in the chain of its history from **A** to **B** regardless of its condition at any other point on the axis . *This kind of study is synchronic.*

AB Imaginary Diachronic Axis

