

2008 年上海海事大学攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

(重要提示: 答案必须做在答题纸上, 做在试题上不给分)

考试科目: 语言学基础知识

1. Define or explain the following terms: (40)

1. phonology
2. applied linguistics
3. derivatives
4. syntax as a system of rules
5. synonymy
6. speech act theory
7. semantic broadening
8. speech community
9. linguistic relativism
10. language transfer

II. Fill in the blank in each of the following statements with the word whose first letter is already given as a clue. You are not allowed to change the letter given. (20)

1. Speech v_____ refers to any distinguishable form of speech used by a speaker or group of speakers.
2. B_____ refers to a linguistic situation in which two standard languages are used either by an individual or by a group of speakers.

3. In the course of time the study of language has established close links with other branches of social studies, resulting in i _____ branches of linguistic study.
4. L _____ refers to the abstract linguistic system shared by all the members of a speech community, and parole refers to the realization of that in actual use.
5. In phonetics, manner of a _____ refers to the manner in which obstruction is created, and the place of that refers to the place where obstruction is created.
6. A r _____ is often seen as part of a word; it can never stand by itself although it bears a clear, definite meaning; it must be combined with another root or an affix to form a word.
7. All languages have ways of saying something about the entity they refer to. That is, they can make p _____ about the referring entity, or the subject.
8. WH-m _____ is obligatory in English, which changes a sentence from affirmative to interrogative.
9. R _____ means what a linguistic form refers to in the real, physical world; it deals with the relationship between the linguistic element and the non-linguistic world of experience.
10. P _____ refers to the same word having more than one meaning.

III. True or False Questions

Judge whether each of the following statements is true or false. If a statement is false, explain or provide the correct version. (20)

1. A prescriptive linguistic study describes and analyzes the language people actually use.
2. The American linguist Norm Chomsky took a sociological view of language and his notion of language is a matter of social convention.
3. When we say language is arbitrary, we mean the meaning of an utterance can be arbitrarily interpreted by the audience.
4. The displacement feature of language refers to the fact that language can be used to refer to context removed from the immediate situations of the speaker, e.g.

- things that are past or future, or even imagined.
5. Phonetics, as the study of speech sounds, focuses on the system of sounds of a particular language; it aims to discover how speech sounds in a language form patterns and how these sounds are used to convey meaning in linguistic communication.
 6. In syntax, the structural subject is the first NP under the S node and the structural object is the NP following the V under the VP node, or the NP following the P under the PP node in a tree.
 7. While most utterances take the form of sentences, i.e., most utterances are complete sentences in terms of syntax, some utterances are not, and some cannot even be restored to complete sentences.
 8. In old English, the word “fond” meant “foolish”. This is the process of semantic change; that is, as language changes over time, the meaning of a word may deviate from its original denotation through the process of semantic broadening.
 9. The most distinguishable linguistic feature of a regional dialect is its vocabulary.
 10. The fact that between different languages successful translation can be achieved has been employed to act as one of the arguments against the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.

IV. Answer the following questions (70)

1. Comment on Saussure’s distinction between langue and parole, and on the Chomsky’s distinction between competence and performance.
2. Elaborate on the following design features of human language: arbitrariness, productivity, duality, and cultural transmission.
3. What is morphology and what is a morpheme? List the types of morphemes, and state the morphological rules that govern the use of the given derivational affixes: -ment, -wise, en-, -ee.
4. Elaborate on the ambiguity of the following sentence through drawing the tree diagrams of constituent structures:

Visiting scholars can be awful.

5. Comment on the contextualist view of meaning. What does sentence meaning involve? Try to analyze the following sentences in terms of predication analysis: 1) The man sells fake antiques. 2) Is he working? Any context involved in the predication analysis?
6. List the five general categories of speech acts, and provide examples for each category.
7. What is register? Write two statements with same content but in two different register forms, either appropriate for a particular context.