

上海师范大学 2007 年硕士研究生入学考试试题
专业名称 英语语言文学、外国语言学及应用语言学
考试科目 (代码) 语言学基础 (635)

(注意: 答案必须写在统一印制的答题纸上, 否则不给分)

Directions: *This test is to assess your proficiency in General Linguistics. You are supposed to answer all questions as instructed. Read each question carefully and write your answers legibly on your ANSWER SHEET. You do not have to copy the questions onto your ANSWER SHEET, but you must indicate clearly the question item number in the given order.*

I. Complete the following statements with a linguistic term (ONE word only for each blank). (20 points)

1. The study of how sounds are put together and used to convey meaning in communication is called _____.
2. Traditional grammar intends to tell people what they should say and what they should not say, and therefore it is said to be _____; if a linguistic study describes and analyzes the language people actually use, it is said to be _____.
3. Verbal _____ are generally related to sex, the supernatural, excretion, and death, which society wishes to avoid.
4. We use language in order to communicate our ideas, to exchange facts and opinions. The use of language is often called 'referential', 'propositional' or '_____'.
5. When language is used as a means of getting rid of our nervous energy when we are under stress, this is often called a(n) _____ function of language. Another major function of language is the expression of personal _____ - the signaling of who we are and where we 'belong'.
6. Language seems to be very important for both _____ thinking like when we solve problems by using a given set of rules, as in an arithmetic task, and _____ thinking like when we solve problems on the basis of data placed before us, as in working out a travel route.

7. The '_____ hypothesis' states that the distinctions encoded in one language are not found in any other language.
8. Human language has the essential flexibility which enables us to be _____, to create new meanings and shape our own reality unconstrained by the immediate context.
9. The _____ tendency in human beings may be the root reason for our not being able to understand animal communication.
10. Although language is a kind of cognitive _____, it functions as a means of communication and social control.
11. M. A. K. Halliday refers to 'language as social _____', to mean that language is a system of signs which are socially motivated or informed in that they have been developed to express social meanings.
12. Historical linguistics seeks to account for changes in language over time, that is, its _____ dimension.
13. The _____ element 'i' may be represented by two different _____ values as in 'time /taɪm/ and 'if /ɪf/.
14. With regard to speech, the variant tokens that a sound type takes are referred to as _____ of the same phoneme.
15. The type of discourse in written or spoken mode with particular characteristics established by convention is called _____.
16. According to Chomsky, linguistic theory is _____, since it is concerned with discovering a mental reality underlying actual behavior.

II. Short answer questions. (50 points, 5 points each)

1. What does the design feature 'duality' suggest about the nature of human language?
2. What is Universal Grammar?
3. Why is there the need of using *abstraction* in linguistic explanations?
4. Explain 'minimal pair'.
5. Explain 'communicative competence'.
6. Exemplify by using the following sentence the concept of *type* and *token* in terms of word elements and letter elements: . .

The teachers says that that 'that' that that student uses is wrong.

7. Define 'prototype'.
8. Briefly discuss how *cohesion* is created in discourse.
9. Explain the concept of 'constituent' in the following sentence:

The lights went out.

10. What are the differences between 'formulaic phrases' and 'collocations'?

III. Essay questions. (80 points)

1. Discuss 'syntagmatic' and 'paradigmatic' relationships on both the word and sentence levels. (20 points)
2. What are 'suprasegmental features'? Discuss at least two such features to exemplify how they help express subtleties of meaning in utterances. (20 points)
3. Discuss how the two morphological phenomena *derivation* and *inflection* work in the English language. (20 points)
4. "In conversations, interpretation of meaning commonly involves the parties concerned in the **negotiation of meaning**, whereby an agreed frame of reference or set of illocutionary conditions is established." Discuss this claim with reference to the **cooperative principle**. (20 points)