

八十五學年度 語言學研究 系(所) \_\_\_\_\_ 組碩士班研究生入學考試

科目 語言學概論 科號 4401 共 四 頁 第 一 頁 \*請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

I. Fill in each of the following blanks with a proper word so that the passage will make sense linguistically. 10%

1. Those laws which pertain to all human languages, representing the universal properties of language, constitute what may be called a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The study of the physical characteristics of speech sounds is called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In an area where divergent languages are spoken when people of different groups desire social or commercial communication, one language is often used by common agreement. Such a language is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Taboo words and acts give rise to \_\_\_\_\_, which are words or phrases which replace the expression to be avoided. "Powder room" used to replace "toilet" is a good example.
5. If the symbol ⊙ stood for sun in English, it can then be used in a sentence like My ⊙ is a doctor. This sentence is an example of the \_\_\_\_\_ principle.
6. When speakers of English, instead of the earlier plural kine, start to say cows as the plural of cow, due probably to parallels such as foe/foes, dog/dogs. This kind of change is either called internal borrowing or \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Hakka, Mandarin, Burmese and Tibetan are some languages that belong to the language family known as the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The brain is divided into two parts, one on the left and one on the right. Each part is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. In an \_\_\_\_\_ language, one morpheme equals one word. Chinese, which is characterized by a lack of derivational and inflectional processes is such a language.
10. The first utterances of children which are longer than two words have a special characteristic. Usually the small "function" words such as to, the, can, is, and so on, are missing; only the words which carry the main message - the "content" words - occur. Such utterances are called \_\_\_\_\_.

II. Distinguish the following pairs of terms, giving illustrative examples wherever relevant. Choose any five. 20%

1. Exocentric vs. endocentric construction
2. Pidgin vs. creole
3. Assimilation vs. dissimilation
4. Top-down vs. bottom-up processing
5. Syllable-writing system vs. Word-writing system
6. Broca's aphasia vs. Wernicke's aphasia
7. Derivational vs. inflectional morpheme

八十五學年度 語言學研究所 組碩士班研究生入學考試

科目 語言學概論 科號 4401 共四頁第二頁 \*請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

III. Southern Min in Taiwan has twenty initial consonants. The following chart presents these consonants according to their phonetic features. Please complete the chart by filling the blanks. 10%

		labial	coronal	l.	glottal
stop	voiced	b	ɹ	g	
	voiceless	unaspirated	p	t	k
aspirated		pʰ	tʰ	kʰ	
3	voiceless		ts		
			tsʰ		
nasal	voiced	m	n	ŋ	
fricative	voiced		z		
	voiceless		s		h
glide	voiced	ɸ	y		

IV. The following sentences make certain presuppositions. What are they? 10%

- (1) Please take me out to the ball game again
- (2) That her favorite students failed in the exam made her sad.
- (3) Isn't it strange that the United States invaded Cambodia in 1970?
- (4) Who discovered America in 1492?
- (5) When did he stop beating his wife?

V. In Old English, the six sentences in (1) were all grammatical and they all meant "The man slew the king." In Modern English, there is only one grammatical way to express the same idea as in (2). Explain in some detail what has happened to English during the course of its evolution that has reduced drastically its word order possibilities. What does this particular incidence tell us about the ways grammatical relations such as subject, object are shown universally? 15%

- (1) a. Se man sloh þone kyning.
- b. þone kyning sloh se man.
- c. Se man þone kyning sloh.
- d. þone kyning se man sloh.
- e. Sloh se man þone kyning.
- f. Sloh þone knyning se man.

(2) The man slew the king.

八十五學年度 語言學研究系(所) 組碩士班研究生入學考試

科目 語言學概論 科號 4401 共 四 頁第 三 頁 \*請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

VI. Each of the following statements represents a misconception associated with language. Write a short paragraph to argue against each proposition. 15%

1. Language change means corruption.
2. Children learn their language by imitation.

VII. Examine the following words of Tongan, a Polynesian Language. (Note: In Tongan all syllables end in a vowel.) 15%

tauhi	'to take care'	sino	'body'
sisi	'garland'	totonu	'correct'
motu	'island'	pasi	'to clap'
mosimosi	'to drizzle'	fata	'shelf'
motomoto	'unripe'	movete	'to come apart'
fesi	'to break'	misi	'to dream'

- (1) On the basis of these data, determine whether [s] and [t] are allophones of a single phoneme in Tongan or are distinct phonemes. If you find that they are allophones of the same phoneme, state the rule that describe where each allophone occurs. If you conclude that they are different phonemes, justify your answer.
- (2) In each of the following Tongan words, one sound has been replaced by a blank. This sound is either [s] or [t]. Without more knowledge of Tongan that you could figure out from (1), is it possible to make an educated guess as to which of these two sounds fits in the blank? If so, provide the sound; if not, explain why.

_ili	'fishing net'	se_e	'lump'
_uku	'to place'	lama i	'to ambush'

- (3) In the course of this century, Tongan has borrowed many words from English and has adapted them to fit the phonological structure of its words.

kaasete	'gazette'	suu	'shoe'
tisi	'dish'	koniseti	'concert'
sosaicti	'society'	pata	'butter'
salati	'salad'	suka	'sugar'
maasolo	'marshall'	sikaa	'cigar'
sekoni	'second'	taimani	'diamond'

八十五學年度 語言學研究系(所) 組碩士班研究生入學考試

科目 語言學概論 科號 4401 共 四 頁第 四 頁 \*請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

How does the phonemic status of [s] and [t] differ in borrowed words and in native Tongan words? In other words, is the situation the same in these borrowed words? Write an integrated statement about the status of [s] and [t] in Tongan. (*Hint*: Your statement will have to include information about which area of the Tongan vocabulary each part of the rule applies to.)

VIII. Explain in your own words why the sentence given by DENNIS THE MENACE in the following cartoon is not a contradiction. 5%



\*HE CAN SMELL BETTER THAN WE CAN, BUT HE USUALLY SMELLS WORSE.\*

DENNIS THE MENACE® used by permission of Hank Ketchum and © by North America Syndicate