

國 立 清 華 大 學 命 題 紙

九十二學年度 外國語文學 系(所) 乙 組碩士班研究生招生考試

科目 英語語言學概論 科號 4901 共 2 頁第 1 頁 *請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

Answer the questions in English, not Chinese.

1. Write the following paragraph in phonetic transcription, using the International Phonetic Alphabet. (8 points)

Three maidens stood on the bank of a river, watching and waiting for the moon to rise. Suddenly, a shrill screeching filled the air and they all jumped with fright. But, looking around, they discovered it was only an owl delivering a letter.

2. Why don't we pronounce the names of the letters A, E, and I as their older forms [a], [e], and [i] respectively, and why do we now say housewife instead of the older [hūs-wīf]? Explain these changes. (6 points)

3. How does the spelling of British English differ from that of American English? Give examples of differences in groups of words and also of differences in individual words. (6 points)

4. Briefly define each of the following branches of linguistics. (12 points)

- a. neurolinguistics
- b. phonetics
- c. phonology
- d. syntax
- e. morphology
- f. pragmatics

5. Briefly define each of the following terms. (14 points)

- a. standard dialect
- b. ideogram
- c. allomorphs
- d. diphthong
- e. anomalous sentence
- f. creole
- g. subcategorization

6. Draw the deep structure (DS) and surface structure (SS), in detail, for the following sentence. (10 points)

The dog was bitten by a large rabbit.

7. Describe one problem with the idea that children learn language simply by imitating what they hear. (5 points)

8. Describe one important reason why languages change. (6 points)

9. Why do linguists think that bird songs are not examples of language? (6 points)

10. What is Universal Grammar? Describe one major reason why many linguists believe that it exists. (6 points)

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11. When the speech of one group of people has clear similarities to the speech of another group but also has substantial differences, why is it sometimes difficult to decide if the two groups speak two different languages or two dialects of a single language? (6 points)

12. Imagine a language, called Laernu, that includes the following items:

gluck = boy

bleck = girl

ketbas = kiss

glorp = a reciprocal pronoun

u = a prefix marking nominative case

ip = a prefix marking accusative case

en = a plural prefix

oo = an infix marking past tense

gak = a prefix marking definiteness

ok = a suffix marking first person subject agreement

orp = a suffix marking second person subject agreement

olf = a suffix marking third person subject agreement

All the affixes given here are used obligatorily in this language. Laernu is a VSO language. *Translate each of the following English sentences into Laernu.* (There may be more than one acceptable answer. Just give one for each sentence.) (15 points)

- The boy kissed the girl.
- A girl kissed the boy.
- The boys kiss each other.