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Pages: 3

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國 立 清 華 大 學 命 題 紙

九十六學年度 台灣研究教師在職專班 系(所) 語言學 組入學考試

科目 語言學概論 科號 42-1 共 3 頁 第 1 頁 *請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

Note: To answer the questions in I and III, you may use English or Chinese.

I. Explain the following terms, providing examples whenever relevant. (30%)

- (1) Inflectional morphology
- (2) Constituent
- (3) Function words
- (4) Content words
- (5) Genetically related languages
- (6) Obstruent

II. Multiple-choice questions. Each question below has one and only one correct answer. Please write the correct choice on your answer book. (30%)

- (1) How many morphemes are there in the English word '*generalizations*'?
 - A. 6
 - B. 4
 - C. 3
 - D. 2
- (2) The sound [p] (as in the English word '*peak*')
 - A. is a fricative sound.
 - B. is a bilabial sound.
 - C. is a voiced sound.
 - D. All the above are correct.
- (3) Which of the following statements is incorrect?
 - A. Different languages may have different set of phonetic sounds.
 - B. But languages have the same syllable structure in their phonological system.
 - C. However, languages may have different morphemes and words.
 - D. Thus there are similarities and differences among the world's languages.

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(4) Which of the following is correct?

- A. Synonymy: X and Y are synonymous if X and Y have the same phonetic form.
- B. Antonymy: X and Y are antonymous if X and Y have opposite meanings.
- C. Homonymy: X and Y are homonymous if X and Y have the same meaning.
- D. All the above are correct.

(5) A morpheme is

- A. a word.
- B. free.
- C. composed of two or more syllables.
- D. None of the above is correct.

(6) Consider the following two sentences:

(i) *The winner of the 1996 U.S. presidential election is Bill Clinton.*

(ii) *Robin wants to know if Bill Clinton was the winner of the 1996 U.S. presidential election.*

We substitute *Bill Clinton* with *the winner of the 1996 U.S. presidential election* and obtain the sentence *Robin wants to know if Bill Clinton is Bill Clinton*. This is, of course, nonsense. With this as the background, decide which of the following statements is incorrect.

- A. The inadequacy of such a substitution shows that reference alone does not determine the meaning of a sentence.
- B. But reference is still an important part in the definition of meaning, because the sentence *Superman is superman* and the sentence *Superman is Clark Kent* can be substituted with each other and gives the identical truth condition.
- C. However, the reference of a linguistic expression just cannot give us an explanation why we understand the meanings of words such as *Santa Claus*, since *Santa Clause* does not exist.
- D. Thus the fact that language can be used to talk about fiction, fantasy or speculation in addition to things in the real world comes to be a piece of evidence against the theory that the meaning of a linguistic expression is nothing but its reference.

III. Analysis and short-answer questions. (40%)

- (1) Is the nasal [n] (as in the English word '*near*') a stop? State your reason.

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(2) We human beings speak in a linear fashion. That is, we speak one word after another and after another. (Here we ignore the case of sign languages.) However, linguists have found that our mental grammar actually doesn't produce sentences in a linear way; it produces sentences in a hierarchical fashion. There is good evidence for this discovery, namely the phenomenon of structural ambiguity. Show what structural ambiguity is and how it proves that human produces sentences in a hierarchical fashion.

(3) Look at the following data from Turkish:

el	'the hand'	evimiz	'our house'
eller	'hands'	evde	'in the house'
elim	'my hand'	elimde	'in my hand'
ev	'the house'	evlerimiz	'our houses'
eve	'to the house'	evlerimden	'from my houses'
ellerimiz	'our hands'	evleriniz	'your (pl.) houses'
ellerimde	'in my hands'	evim	'my house'
evlerde	'in the houses'	ellerimden	'from my hands'
evden	'from the house'	evler	'houses'
ellerim	'my hands'	eline	'to your (sing.) hand'
ellerinize	'to your (pl.) hands'	ellerin	'your (sing.) hands'
evlerim	'my houses'	elimden	'from my hand'
elin	'your (sing.) hand'	evine	'to your (sing.) house'

What are the morphemes/translations in Turkish for the following meanings?

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) 'in' | (f) 'your (sing.)' |
| (b) 'from' | (g) 'your (pl.)' |
| (c) Plural | (h) 'from your (pl.) house' |
| (d) 'my' | (i) 'to our houses' |
| (e) 'our' | (j) 'in my house' |

(4) What follows is a joke taken from the internet. It comes in the form of an inference.

- (i) 沒有任何東西比老婆好 (ii) 有一塊錢比沒有任何東西好

So: 一塊錢比老婆好

Why is this "inference" absurd? What goes wrong with this inference? Explain it with your linguistic knowledge.