

**BITS PILANI, DUBAI CAMPUS**  
Dubai International Academic City, U.A.E.  
Year II - Semester I 2012-2013  
**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS (CLOSED BOOK)**

**Course No: HSS F222** **Course Title: Linguistics**

**Date: 02.01.13** **Time: 3 hrs** **Maximum Marks: 40** **Weightage: 40**

**Note: Answer all questions.**

- I. (a) What is a morpheme? How is it different from a word and a syllable? What are the various types of morphemes? Explain your answer by giving examples.
- (b) Give the morphological description of the following sentence by identifying the various types of elements in the sentence.
- i. The baby's beautiful smile captivated the onlookers.
- (8 ½ marks)
- II. Differentiate by giving examples.
- (a) Deep and surface structures of sentences
- (b) Conceptual and associative meaning
- (c) Agent and theme
- (d) Pidgin and creole
- (8 marks)
- III. Define the following.
- (b) Deixis
- (c) Diglossia
- (d) caregiver speech
- (1 ½ marks)
- IV. Draw tree diagrams for the sentence, '*The man walked down the street with a gun toward the bank.*'
- (3 marks)
- V. Discuss the various stages of language planning in the process of adopting a national language?
- (5 ½ marks)
- VI. During which stage do children typically first produce syllable sequences similar to *mama* and *dada* and how old are they? Explain this stage of language acquisition.
- (1 ½ marks)
- VII. Which of the following statements do you agree with? What reasons would you give to support your opinions?
- (a) Most mistakes in the L2 are due to interference from the L1.
- (b) L2 learners should not be allowed to hear mistakes or they will learn them.
- (4 marks)

VIII. How would you group the following languages into pairs which are closely related from a historical point of view: Punjabi, English, Persian, Latvian, Welsh, Urdu, French, Danish, Kurdish, Russian, Portuguese, Czech, Irish, Lithuanian?

(4 marks)

IX. Using what you have learned about comparative reconstruction, try to recreate the most likely proto-forms for these cognates

*Languages*

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Proto-forms</b>
keti	čet	ket ('fire')	_____
kuwo	čel	kuw ('nose')	_____
nike	nič	nik ('ant')	_____
wuki	luč	wuk ('house')	_____

(4 marks)

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**TEST II (OPEN BOOK)**

**Course No: HUM C371** **Course Title: LINGUISTICS**  
**Date: 20.11.2012** **Time: 50 minutes** **Maximum Marks: 20** **Weightage: 20**

- I.** Transcribe the following words by using IPA symbols. (7 marks)
1. performance
  2. languishing
  3. ethnology
  4. embellished
  5. construction
  6. shortages
  7. ignorant
- II.** Indicate the syllabic structure of the following words in terms of consonants and vowels. (4 marks)
1. wreckages
  2. psychology
  3. overnight
  4. righteous
- III.** Write the structure of the following words in terms of prefixes, suffixes and stems. (5 marks)
1. impeccable
  2. deciphering
  3. unexpectedly
  4. irresponsibility
  5. phonetics
- IV.** Correct the following sentences if they contain an error according to the rules of prescriptive grammar, or write *No Error*. (4 marks)
1. He decided to firmly and definitively deal with the problem.
  2. Everyone had to wait their turn.
  3. When Mary walks into a room, everyone will stare.
  4. Your new training program are stimulating and a challenge.

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**Years II - Semester I 2012-2013**  
**TEST I (CLOSED BOOK)**

**Course No: HUM C371** **Course Title: Linguistics**  
**Date: 04.10.12 Time: 50 minutes Maximum Marks: 25 Weightage: 25**  
**Note: Answer all questions.**

- I. What are the various *imitation hypotheses* concerning the origin of the first language? What are their limitations?  
( 10 marks )
- II. Does human language have special properties that make it unique and different than any other communication systems found in nature? Explain briefly.  
( 5 marks )
- III. Differentiate between-  
a) Pictograms and ideograms  
b) Syllabic writing and alphabetic writing  
( 3 marks )
- IV. How are consonants classified on the basis of place of articulation? Discuss briefly.  
( 7 marks )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID No: \_\_\_\_\_

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QUIZ I (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: HUM C371 Course Title: LINGUISTICS  
Date: 10.10.2012 Time: 20 minutes Maximum Marks: 15 Weightage: 15

**VERSION A**

**Fill in the blanks:**

1. Written language developed \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
2. The divine language spoken by the children during divine language experiment was identified as \_\_\_\_\_ by the Egyptian Pharaoh.
3. The appeal of yo-he-ho theory is that it places the development of human language in some \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Human teeth are helpful in making sounds such as \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The soft part of the palate is called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The human brain is \_\_\_\_\_, i.e. it has specialized functions in each of the two hemispheres.
7. All languages, including sign language, require the \_\_\_\_\_ in specific arrangements.
8. The property of human language that allows language users to talk about things and events not present in the immediate environment is called \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The non-iconic relationship between linguistic signs and objects in the world is described as \_\_\_\_\_.
10. In \_\_\_\_\_, there are two levels producing distinct sounds and distinct meaning.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ language was used to teach communication to Washoe.

12. The sentence produced by Sarah chimp was \_\_\_\_\_
13. The psychologist \_\_\_\_\_ has argued that chimpanzees simply produce signs in response to the demands of people and tend to repeat signs those people use.
14. The linguist who made the claim that “acquisition of even the barest rudiments of language is quite beyond the capacities of an otherwise intelligent ape” was \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The earliest writing for which we have clear evidence is the kind that Geoffrey Nunberg is referring to as \_\_\_\_\_ marked on clay tablets about 5,000 years ago.
16. Sequoyah invented a syllabic writing system that was widely used within the \_\_\_\_\_ community to create written messages from the spoken language.
17. A set of written symbols, each one representing a single type of sound is called \_\_\_\_\_.
18. When the vocal cords are spread apart, the air from the lungs passes between them unimpeded. Sounds produced in this way are described as \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Mention the phonetic features of the following sounds:
- a. [dʒ] \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. [h] \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. [ʌ] \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. [æ] \_\_\_\_\_
20. Write the voiced counterpart of the sound [ʃ] \_\_\_\_\_.
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the space between the vocal cords in the larynx.
22. Affricates have the characteristics of both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
23. The glides are also called \_\_\_\_\_.
24. The glottal stop is represented by the symbol \_\_\_\_\_.
25. A \_\_\_\_\_ is produced by the tongue tip tapping the alveolar ridge briefly.
26. We move tongue from one vocalic position to another as we produce a \_\_\_\_\_.