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BITS PILANI, DUBAI CAMPUS

Dubai International Academic City, U.A.E.

Semester I 2013-2014

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: HUM C³⁷¹~~312~~/ HSS F222 Course Title: Linguistics
 Date: 26.12.13 Time: 3 hrs Maximum Marks: 40 Weightage: 40
 Note: Answer all questions.

I. Answer the following:

(a) Give the morphological description of the following sentence by identifying the various types of elements in the sentence.

i. The man's impressive speech captivated the listeners.

(b) Consider the following nouns in Zulu and proceed to look for the recurring forms:

umfazi	"married woman"	abafazi	"married women"
umfani	"boy"	abafani	"boys"
umzali	"parent"	abazali	"parents"
umfundisi	"teacher"	abafundisi	"teachers"

- i. What is the morpheme meaning "singular" in Zulu?
- ii. What is the morpheme meaning "plural" in Zulu?
- iii. List the Zulu stems to which the singular and plural morphemes are attached, and give their meanings.

(c) Consider these Swedish noun forms:

en lampa	"a lamp"	en bil	"a car"
en stol	"a chair"	en sofa	"a sofa"
en tidning	"a newspaper"	en katt	"a cat"
lampor	"lamps"	bilar	"cars"
stolar	"chairs"	soffor	"sofas"
tidningar	"newspapers"	kattar	"cats"
lampan	"the lamp"	bilen	"the car"
stolen	"the chair"	soffan	"the sofa"
tidningaren	"the newspaper"	katten	"the cat"
lamporna	"the lamps"	bilarna	"the cars"
stolarna	"the chairs"	sofforna	"the sofas"
tidningarna	"the newspapers"	kattarna	"the cats"

- i. What is the Swedish word for the indefinite article *a* (or *an*)?
- ii. What are the two forms of the plural morpheme in these data? How can you tell which plural form applies?
- iii. What are the two forms of the morpheme that make a singular word definite, that is, correspond to the English article *the*? How can you tell which form applies?
- iv. What is the morpheme that makes a plural word definite?
- v. In what order do the various suffixes occur when there is more than one?

(1 ¼ + 1½ + 2 ¾ marks)

- II. Differentiate by giving examples.
- (a) Acquisition and learning of a language
 - (b) Metathesis and prothesis
 - (c) Pidgin and creole
 - (d) Prescriptive and descriptive grammar

(1+2+2+2=7 marks)

- III. (a) Draw tree diagrams for the sentence, '*The children hope that the teacher knows that the principal said that the school closes for the day.*'
- (b) Generate the following sentence in terms of a tree after applying transformational rule and deriving a new syntactic structure.
- i. The boy is sleeping.
- (c) In what ways are these expressions ambiguous?
- i. Free whales.
 - ii. Police help dog bite victim.

(2+1+1 marks)

- IV. (a) Identify the semantic role of the highlighted entities in the sentences below.
- i. They signed the treaty **with the same pen**.
 - ii. Fia told the joke **to her friends**.
 - iii. Tinan walked **away from every opportunity**.
 - iv. John kept the book **on the desk**.
 - v. **I** hated **myself**.

(1 ½ marks)

- (b) Which of the following opposites are gradable, non-gradable, or reversible?
- i. Wide/narrow
 - ii. Boy/girl
 - iii. Hit/miss
 - iv. Begin/end
 - v. Borrow/lend
 - vi. Buy/sell

(1 ½ marks)

- (c) Study the following pairs of words. What is the basic lexical relation between these pairs of words?
- i. king -crown
 - ii. cacophony - noise
 - iii. suite - sweet
 - iv. table - furniture
 - v. pole -pole
 - vi. mole-mole

(1 ½ marks)

- V. The following sentences have certain presuppositions that ensure their appropriateness. What are they?
- i. The minors promised the police to stop drinking.
 - ii. We went to the ballpark again.
 - iii. Valerie regretted not receiving a new T-bird for Labor Day.
 - iv. That her pet turtle ran away made Emily very sad.
 - v. Disa wants more popcorn.

- vi. Mary drank one more beer before leaving.
- vii. Jack knows who discovered Pluto in 1930.
- viii. Mary was horrified to find a cockroach in her bed.

(2 marks)

VI. Identify and name any deictic expression in the following sentences.

- i. I saw her standing there.
- ii. Dogs are animals.
- iii. Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away.
- iv. The name of that rock band is "The Beatles."
- v. The Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776.
- vi. Copper conducts electricity.
- vii. The treasure chest is to your right.
- viii. These are the times that try men's souls.

(2 marks)

VII. 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.

(2 marks)

VIII. Indicate the age and stage at which the following speeches are made by a child.

- i. *ba-ba-ba*
- ii. *ma-da-ga-ba*
- iii. milk', 'cookie
- iv. *cat badl*
- v. daddy go bye-bye
- vi. *Where kitty? Doggie?*

(3marks)

IX. Discuss the various stages of language planning in the process of adopting a national language

(5 marks)

X. Do you agree with the following statement? What reasons would you give to support your opinions?

(a) Most mistakes in the L2 are due to interference from the L1.

(3 marks)

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

Languages

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

(2 marks)

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 Semester I 2013-2014
TEST II (OPEN BOOK)

Course No: HUM C371/HSS F222

Course Title: LINGUISTICS

Date: 18.11.2013

Time: 50 minutes

Maximum Marks: 20

Weightage: 20

- I. Transcribe the following words by using the IPA symbols. (7 marks)
1. sequenced
 2. measurement
 3. approximate (adj.)
 4. flourished
 5. Bungling
 6. Rummages
 7. Gigantically
- II. Identify the different word-formation processes involved in producing each of the underlined words in these sentences? (3 marks)
1. Now poachers electrocute the animals.
 2. First, the cost of prescribing aspirin was low.
 3. Ann is a business tycoon.
 4. Fingerprint scanners save valuable time.
 5. I would love to vacation in Europe.
 6. I have a granny who is very affectionate.
- III. Identify the syllabic structure of the following words in terms of consonants and vowels. (4 marks)
1. Catching
 2. psychometrician
 3. bombed
 4. Knowledgeably
- IV. Identify the elements in the following words in terms of prefixes, suffixes and stems. (3 marks)
1. authorization
 2. impeccable
 3. deciphering

V. Correct the following sentences if there is any error or write no error.

(2 marks)

1. He barely kicked that ball twenty yards.
2. .We ate the lunch that we had brought slowly.

VI. Create a labeled and bracketed analysis of this sentence:

(1 marks)

1. The man asked John to keep the book on the table.

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Semester I 2013-2014
TEST I (CLOSED BOOK)

Course No: HSS C222 **Course Title: LINGUISTICS**
Date: 23.09.2013 **Time: 50 minutes** **Maximum Marks: 25** **Weightage: 25**

- I.** Explain the following briefly.
- a. What is the basic idea behind the 'bow-wow' theory?
 - b. Why are interjections considered to be unlikely sources of human speech sounds?
 - c. What special features of human teeth make them useful in the production of speech sounds?
- (3+4+1=8 marks)
- II.** What kind of evidences (provide two) are used to support the idea that language is culturally transmitted?
(3 marks)
- III.** What is the difference between a communication system with productivity and one with fixed reference?
(3 marks)
- IV.** Differentiate between-
- a. Pictograms and ideograms
 - b. Syllabic writing and alphabetic writing
- (4 marks)
- V.** How are consonants classified on the basis of place of articulation? Discuss briefly.
(7 vowels)