

Chapter 1 Introductions to Linguistics

I. Choose the best answer. (20%)

1. Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human _____.
A. contact B. communication C. relation D. community
2. Which of the following words is entirely arbitrary?
A. tree B. typewriter C. crash D. bang
3. The function of the sentence "Water boils at 100 degrees Centigrade." is _____.
A. interrogative B. directive C. informative D. performative
4. In Chinese when someone breaks a bowl or a plate the host or the people present are likely to say "岁岁(岁岁)平安" as a means of controlling the forces which they believe might affect their lives. Which functions does it perform?
A. Interpersonal B. Emotive C. Performative D. Recreational
5. Which of the following property of language enables language users to overcome the barriers caused by time and place, due to this feature of language, speakers of a language are free to talk about anything in any situation?
A. Transferability B. Duality C. Displacement D. Arbitrariness
6. Study the following dialogue. What function does it play according to the functions of language?
— A nice day, isn't it?
— Right! I really enjoy the sunlight.
A. Emotive B. Phatic C. Performative D. Interpersonal
7. _____ refers to the actual realization of the ideal language user's knowledge of the rules of his language in utterances.
A. Performance B. Competence C. Langue D. Parole
8. When a dog is barking, you assume it is barking for something or at someone that exists hear and now. It couldn't be sorrowful for some lost love or lost bone. This indicates the design feature of _____.
A. cultural transmission B. productivity C. displacement D. duality
9. _____ answers such questions as how we as infants acquire our first language.
A. Psycholinguistics B. Anthropological linguistics
C. Sociolinguistics D. Applied linguistics
10. _____ deals with language application to other fields, particularly education.
A. Linguistic theory B. Practical linguistics
C. Applied linguistics D. Comparative linguistics

II. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. (10%)

11. Language is a means of verbal communication. Therefore, the communication way used by the deaf-mute is not language.
12. Language change is universal, ongoing and arbitrary.
13. Speaking is the quickest and most efficient way of the human communication systems.
14. Language is written because writing is the primary medium for all languages.
15. We were all born with the ability to acquire language, which means the details of any

language system can be genetically transmitted.

16. Only human beings are able to communicate.
17. F. de Saussure, who made the distinction between langue and parole in the early 20th century, was a French linguist.
18. A study of the features of the English used in Shakespeare's time is an example of the diachronic study of language.
19. Speech and writing came into being at much the same time in human history.
20. All the languages in the world today have both spoken and written forms.

III. Fill in the blanks. (10%)

21. Language, broadly speaking, is a means of _____ communication.
22. In any language words can be used in new ways to mean new things and can be combined into innumerable sentences based on limited rules. This feature is usually termed _____.
23. Language has many functions. We can use language to talk about itself. This function is _____.
24. Theory that primitive man made involuntary vocal noises while performing heavy work has been called the _____ theory.
25. Linguistics is the _____ study of language.
26. Modern linguistics is _____ in the sense that the linguist tries to discover what language is rather than lay down some rules for people to observe.
27. One general principle of linguistic analysis is the primacy of _____ over writing.
28. The description of a language as it changes through time is a _____ study.
29. Saussure put forward two important concepts. _____ refers to the abstract linguistic system shared by all members of a speech community.
30. Linguistic potential is similar to Saussure's langue and Chomsky's _____.

IV. Explain the following terms, using examples. (20%)

31. Design feature
32. Displacement
33. Competence
34. Synchronic linguistics

V. Answer the following questions. (20%)

35. Why do people take duality as one of the important design features of human language? Can you tell us what language will be if it has no such design feature? (南开大学, 2004)
36. Why is it difficult to define language? (北京第二外国语学院, 2004)

VI. Analyze the following situation. (20%)

37. How can a linguist make his analysis scientific? (青岛海洋大学, 1999)

Key:

[In the reference keys, I won't give examples or further analysis. That seems too much work for me. Therefore, this key is only for reference. In order to answer this kind of question, you need more examples. So you should read the textbook carefully. - icywarmtea]

I.

1~5 BACCC

6~10 BACAC

II.

11~15 FFTFF

16~20 FFFFF

III.

21. verbal

22. productivity / creativity

23. metalingual function

24. yo-he-ho

25. scientific

26. descriptive

27. speech

28. diachronic linguistic

29. langue

30. competence

IV.

31. Design feature: It refers to the defining properties of human language that tell the difference between human language and any system of animal communication.

32. Displacement: It means that human languages enable their users to symbolize objects, events and concepts, which are not present (in time and space) at the moment of communication.

33. Competence: It is an essential part of performance. It is the speaker's knowledge of his or her language; that is, of its sound structure, its words, and its grammatical rules. Competence is, in a way, an encyclopedia of language. Moreover, the knowledge involved in competence is generally unconscious. A transformational-generative grammar is a model of competence.

34. Synchronic linguistics: It refers to the study of a language at a given point in time. The time studied may be either the present or a particular point in the past; synchronic analyses can also be made of dead languages, such as Latin. Synchronic linguistics is contrasted with diachronic linguistics, the study of a language over a period of time.

V.

35.

Duality makes our language productive. A large number of different units can be formed out of a small number of elements - for instance, tens of thousands of words out of a small set of sounds, around 48 in the case of the English language. And out of the huge number of words, there can be astronomical number of possible sentences and phrases, which in turn can combine to form unlimited number of texts. Most animal communication systems do not have this design feature of human language.

If language has no such design feature, then it will be like animal communicational system which will be highly limited. It cannot produce a very large number of sound combinations, e.g. words, which are distinct in meaning.

36.

It is difficult to define language, as it is such a general term that covers too many things. Thus, definitions for it all have their own special emphasis, and are not totally free from limitations.

VI.

37.

It should be guided by the four principles of science: exhaustiveness, consistency, economy and objectivity and follow the scientific procedure: form hypothesis - collect data - check against the observable facts - come to a conclusion.

Chapter 2 Speech Sounds

I. Choose the best answer. (20%)

1. Pitch variation is known as _____ when its patterns are imposed on sentences.
A. intonation B. tone C. pronunciation D. voice
2. Conventionally a _____ is put in slashes (/ /).
A. allophone B. phone C. phoneme D. morpheme
3. An aspirated p, an unaspirated p and an unreleased p are _____ of the p phoneme.
A. analogues B. tagmemes C. morphemes D. allophones
4. The opening between the vocal cords is sometimes referred to as _____.
A. glottis B. vocal cavity C. pharynx D. uvula
5. The diphthongs that are made with a movement of the tongue towards the center are known as _____ diphthongs.
A. wide B. closing C. narrow D. centering
6. A phoneme is a group of similar sounds called _____.
A. minimal pairs B. allomorphs C. phones D. allophones
7. Which branch of phonetics concerns the production of speech sounds?
A. Acoustic phonetics B. Articulatory phonetics
C. Auditory phonetics D. None of the above
8. Which one is different from the others according to places of articulation?
A. [n] B. [m] C. [b] D. [p]
9. Which vowel is different from the others according to the characteristics of vowels?
A. [i:] B. [u] C. [e] D. [ɪ]
10. What kind of sounds can we make when the vocal cords are vibrating?
A. Voiceless B. Voiced C. Glottal stop D. Consonant

II. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. (10%)

11. Suprasegmental phonology refers to the study of phonological properties of units larger than the segment-phoneme, such as syllable, word and sentence.
12. The air stream provided by the lungs has to undergo a number of modification to acquire the quality of a speech sound.
13. Two sounds are in free variation when they occur in the same environment and do not contrast, namely, the substitution of one for the other does not produce a different word, but merely a different pronunciation.
14. [p] is a voiced bilabial stop.
15. Acoustic phonetics is concerned with the perception of speech sounds.

16. All syllables must have a nucleus but not all syllables contain an onset and a coda.
17. When pure vowels or monophthongs are pronounced, no vowel glides take place.
18. According to the length or tenseness of the pronunciation, vowels can be divided into tense vs. lax or long vs. short.
19. Received Pronunciation is the pronunciation accepted by most people.
20. The maximal onset principle states that when there is a choice as to where to place a consonant, it is put into the coda rather than the onset.

III. Fill in the blanks. (20%)

21. Consonant sounds can be either _____ or _____, while all vowel sounds are _____.
22. Consonant sounds can also be made when two organs of speech in the mouth are brought close together so that the air is pushed out between them, causing _____.
23. The qualities of vowels depend upon the position of the _____ and the lips.
24. One element in the description of vowels is the part of the tongue which is at the highest point in the mouth. A second element is the _____ to which that part of the tongue is raised.
25. Consonants differ from vowels in that the latter are produced without _____.
26. In phonological analysis the words fail / veil are distinguishable simply because of the two phonemes /f/ - /v/. This is an example for illustrating _____.
27. In English there are a number of _____, which are produced by moving _____ from one vowel position to another through intervening positions.
28. _____ refers to the phenomenon of sounds continually show the influence of their neighbors.
29. _____ is the smallest linguistic unit.
30. Speech takes place when the organs of speech move to produce patterns of sound. These movements have an effect on the _____ coming from the lungs.

IV. Explain the following terms, using examples. (20%)

31. Sound assimilation
32. Suprasegmental feature
33. Complementary distribution
34. Distinctive features

V. Answer the following questions. (20%)

35. What is acoustic phonetics? (中国人民大学, 2003)
36. What are the differences between voiced sounds and voiceless sounds in terms of articulation? (南开大学, 2004)

VI. Analyze the following situation. (20%)

37. Write the symbol that corresponds to each of the following phonetic descriptions; then give

an English word that contains this sound. Example: voiced alveolar stop [d] dog. (青岛海洋大学, 1999)

- (1) voiceless bilabial unaspirated stop
- (2) low front vowel
- (3) lateral liquid
- (4) velar nasal
- (5) voiced interdental fricative

答案 I.

1~5 ACDA 6~10 DBABB

II.

11~15 TTTFF 16~20 TTTFF

III.

- 21. voiced, voiceless, voiced
- 22. friction
- 23. tongue
- 24. height
- 25. obstruction
- 26. minimal pairs
- 27. diphthongs
- 28. Co-articulation
- 29. Phonemes
- 30. air stream

IV.

31. Sound assimilation: Speech sounds seldom occur in isolation. In connected speech, under the influence of their neighbors, are replaced by other sounds. Sometimes two neighboring sounds influence each other and are replaced by a third sound which is different from both original sounds. This process is called sound assimilation.

32. Suprasegmental feature: The phonetic features that occur above the level of the segments are called suprasegmental features; these are the phonological properties of such units as the syllable, the word, and the sentence. The main suprasegmental ones includes stress, intonation, and tone.

33. Complementary distribution: The different allophones of the same phoneme never occur in the same phonetic context. When two or more allophones of one phoneme never occur in the same linguistic environment they are said to be in complementary distribution.

34. Distinctive features: It refers to the features that can distinguish one phoneme from another. If we can group the phonemes into two categories: one with this feature and the other without, this feature is called a distinctive feature.

V.

35.

Acoustic phonetics deals with the transmission of speech sounds through the air. When a speech sound is produced it causes minor air disturbances (sound waves). Various instruments are used to measure the characteristics of these sound waves.

36.

When the vocal cords are spread apart, the air from the lungs passes between them unimpeded. Sounds produced in this way are described as voiceless; consonants [p, s, t] are produced in this way. But when the vocal cords are drawn together, the air from the lungs repeatedly pushes them apart as it passes through, creating a vibration effect. Sounds produced in this way are described as voiced. [b, z, d] are voiced consonants.

VI.

37.

Omit.

Chapter 3 Lexicon

I. Choose the best answer. (20%)

1. Nouns, verbs and adjectives can be classified as _____.
A. lexical words B. grammatical words
C. function words D. form words
2. Morphemes that represent tense, number, gender and case are called _____ morpheme.
A. inflectional B. free C. bound D. derivational
3. There are _____ morphemes in the word denationalization.
A. three B. four C. five D. six
4. In English -ise and -tion are called _____.
A. prefixes B. suffixes C. infixes D. stems
5. The three subtypes of affixes are: prefix, suffix and _____.
A. derivational affix B. inflectional affix C. infix D. back-formation
6. _____ is a way in which new words may be formed from already existing words by subtracting an affix which is thought to be part of the old word.
A. affixation B. back-formation C. insertion D. addition
7. The word TB is formed in the way of _____.
A. acronymy B. clipping C. initialism D. blending
8. The words like comsat and sitcom are formed by _____.
A. blending B. clipping C. back-formation D. acronymy
9. The stem of disagreements is _____.
A. agreement B. agree C. disagree D. disagreement
10. All of them are meaningful except for _____.
A. lexeme B. phoneme C. morpheme D. allomorph

II. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. (10%)

11. Phonetically, the stress of a compound always falls on the first element, while the second element receives secondary stress.
12. Fore as in foretell is both a prefix and a bound morpheme.
13. Base refers to the part of the word that remains when all inflectional affixes are removed.
14. In most cases, prefixes change the meaning of the base whereas suffixes change the word-class of the base.
15. Conversion from noun to verb is the most productive process of a word.
16. Reduplicative compound is formed by repeating the same morpheme of a word.
17. The words whimper, whisper and whistle are formed in the way of onomatopoeia.
18. In most cases, the number of syllables of a word corresponds to the number of morphemes.

19. Back-formation is a productive way of word-formations.
20. Inflection is a particular way of word-formations.

III. Fill in the blanks. (20%)

21. An _____ is pronounced letter by letter, while an _____ is pronounced as a word.
22. Lexicon, in most cases, is synonymous with _____.
23. Orthographically, compounds are written in three ways: _____, _____ and _____.
24. All words may be said to contain a root _____.
25. A small set of conjunctions, prepositions and pronouns belong to _____ class, while the largest part of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs belongs to _____ class.
26. _____ is a reverse process of derivation, and therefore is a process of shortening.
27. _____ is extremely productive, because English had lost most of its inflectional endings by the end of Middle English period, which facilitated the use of words interchangeably as verbs or nouns, verbs or adjectives, and vice versa.
28. Words are divided into simple, compound and derived words on the _____ level.
29. A word formed by derivation is called a _____, and a word formed by compounding is called a _____.
30. Bound morphemes are classified into two types: _____ and _____.

IV. Explain the following terms, using examples. (20%)

31. Blending
32. Allomorph
33. Closed-class word
34. Morphological rule

V. Answer the following questions. (20%)

35. How many types of morphemes are there in the English language? What are they? (厦门大学, 2003)
36. What are the main features of the English compounds?

VI. Analyze the following situation. (20%)

37. Match the terms under COLUMN I with the underlined forms from COLUMN II (武汉大学, 2004)

I		II	
(1)	acronym	a.	foe
(2)	free morpheme	b.	subconscious
(3)	derivational morpheme	c.	UNESCO
(4)	inflectional morpheme	d.	overwhelmed

(5) prefix e. calculation

Key:

I.

1~5 AACBB

6~10 BCADB

II.

11~15 FTFTT

16~20 FTFFF

III.

21. initialism, acronym

22. vocabulary

23. solid, hyphenated, open

24. morpheme

25. close, open

26. back-formation

27. conversion

28. morpheme

29. derivative, compound

30. affix, bound root

IV.

31. Blending: It is a process of word-formation in which a new word is formed by combining the meanings and sounds of two words, one of which is not in its full form or both of which are not in their full forms, like newscast (news + broadcast), brunch (breakfast + lunch)

32. Allomorph: It is any of the variant forms of a morpheme as conditioned by position or adjoining sounds.

33. Close-class word: It is a word whose membership is fixed or limited. Pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, articles, etc. are all closed-class words.

34. Morphological rule: It is the rule that governs which affix can be added to what type of base to form a new word, e.g. -ly can be added to a noun to form an adjective.

V.

Omit.

VI.

37.

(1) c

(2) a

(3) e

(4) d

(5) b

Chapter 4 Syntax

I. Choose the best answer. (20%)

1. The sentence structure is _____.

A. only linear

B. only hierarchical

C. complex

D. both linear and hierarchical

2. The syntactic rules of any language are _____ in number.

A. large

B. small

C. finite

D. infinite

3. The _____ rules are the rules that group words and phrases to form grammatical sentences.

A. lexical

B. morphological

C. linguistic

D. combinational

4. A sentence is considered _____ when it does not conform to the grammatical knowledge in the mind of native speakers.

A. right

B. wrong

C. grammatical

D. ungrammatical

5. A _____ in the embedded clause refers to the introductory word that introduces the embedded clause.

A. coordinator

B. particle

C. preposition

D. subordinator

- Phrase structure rules have ____ properties.
- A. recursive B. grammatical C. social D. functional
7. Phrase structure rules allow us to better understand ____.
- A. how words and phrases form sentences.
B. what constitutes the grammaticality of strings of words
C. how people produce and recognize possible sentences
D. all of the above.
8. The head of the phrase "the city Rome" is ____.
- A. the city B. Rome C. city D. the city Rome
9. The phrase "on the shelf" belongs to ____ construction.
- A. endocentric B. exocentric C. subordinate D. coordinate
10. The sentence "They were wanted to remain quiet and not to expose themselves." is a ____ sentence.
- A. simple B. coordinate C. compound D. complex

II. Decide whether the following statements are true or false. (10%)

11. Universally found in the grammars of all human languages, syntactic rules that comprise the system of internalized linguistic knowledge of a language speaker are known as linguistic competence.
12. The syntactic rules of any language are finite in number, but there is no limit to the number of sentences native speakers of that language are able to produce and comprehend.
13. In a complex sentence, the two clauses hold unequal status, one subordinating the other.
14. Constituents that can be substituted for one another without loss of grammaticality belong to the same syntactic category.
15. Minor lexical categories are open because these categories are not fixed and new members are allowed for.
16. In English syntactic analysis, four phrasal categories are commonly recognized and discussed, namely, noun phrase, verb phrase, infinitive phrase, and auxiliary phrase.
17. In English the subject usually precedes the verb and the direct object usually follows the verb.
18. What is actually internalized in the mind of a native speaker is a complete list of words and phrases rather than grammatical knowledge.
19. A noun phrase must contain a noun, but other elements are optional.
20. It is believed that phrase structure rules, with the insertion of the lexicon, generate sentences at the level of D-structure.

III. Fill in the blanks. (20%)

21. A ____ sentence consists of a single clause which contains a subject and a predicate and stands alone as its own sentence.
22. A ____ is a structurally independent unit that usually comprises a number of words to form a complete statement, question or command.
23. A ____ may be a noun or a noun phrase in a sentence that usually precedes the predicate.

The part of a sentence which comprises a finite verb or a verb phrase and which says something about the subject is grammatically called _____.

25. A _____ sentence contains two, or more, clauses, one of which is incorporated into the other.
26. In the complex sentence, the incorporated or subordinate clause is normally called an _____ clause.
27. Major lexical categories are _____ categories in the sense that new words are constantly added.
28. _____ condition on case assignment states that a case assignor and a case recipient should stay adjacent to each other.
29. _____ are syntactic options of UG that allow general principles to operate in one way or another and contribute to significant linguistic variations between and among natural languages.
30. The theory of _____ condition explains the fact that noun phrases appear only in subject and object positions.

IV. Explain the following terms, using examples. (20%)

31. Syntax
32. IC analysis
33. Hierarchical structure
34. Trace theory

V. Answer the following questions. (20%)

35. What are endocentric construction and exocentric construction? (2004)
36. Distinguish the two possible meanings of “more beautiful flowers ” by means of IC analysis. (北京第二外国语学院, 2004)

VI. Analyze the following situation. (20%)

37. Draw a tree diagram according to the PS rules to show the deep structure of the sentence:

The student wrote a letter yesterday.

Key:

I.

1~5 DCDDD

6~10 ADDBA

II.

11~15 TTTTF

16~20 FTFTT

III.

21. simple

22. sentence

23. subject

24. predicate

25. complex

26. embedded

27. open

28. Adjacency

30. Case

IV.

31. Syntax: Syntax refers to the rules governing the way words are combined to form sentences in a language, or simply, the study of the formation of sentences.
32. IC analysis: Immediate constituent analysis, IC analysis for short, refers to the analysis of a sentence in terms of its immediate constituents word groups (phrases), which are in turn analyzed into the immediate constituents of their own, and the process goes on until the ultimate sake of convenience.
33. Hierarchical structure: It is the sentence structure that groups words into structural constituents and shows the syntactic category of each structural constituent, such as NP, VP and PP.
34. Trace theory: After the movement of an element in a sentence there will be a trace left in the original position. This is the notion trace in T-G grammar. It's suggested that if we have the notion trace, all the necessary information for semantic interpretation may come from the surface structure. E.g. The passive Dams are built by beavers. differs from the active Beavers built dams. in implying that all dams are built by beavers. If we add a trace element represented by the letter t after built in the passive as Dams are built t by beavers, then the deep structure information that the word dams was originally the object of built is also captured by the surface structure. Trace theory proves to be not only theoretically significant but also empirically valid.

V.

35.

An endocentric construction is one whose distribution is functionally equivalent, or approaching equivalence, to one of its constituents, which serves as the center, or head, of the whole. A typical example is the three small children with children as its head. The exocentric construction, opposite to the first type, is defined negatively as a construction whose distribution is not functionally equivalent to any of its constituents. Prepositional phrasal like on the shelf are typical examples of this type.

36.

- (1) more | beautiful flowers
- (2) more beautiful | flowers

Chapter 5 Meaning

[Mainly taken from lxm1000w's exercises. - icywarmtea]

I. Choose the best answer. (20%)

1. The naming theory is advanced by _____.
A. Plato B. Bloomfield C. Geoffrey Leech D. Firth
2. "We shall know a word by the company it keeps." This statement represents _____.
A. the conceptualist view B. contextualism
C. the naming theory D. behaviorism
3. Which of the following is NOT true?
A. Sense is concerned with the inherent meaning of the linguistic form.
B. Sense is the collection of all the features of the linguistic form.

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