

西南大学

2011 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

学科、专业：英语语言文学、外国语言学及应用语言学

研究方向：英语语言学、翻译理论与实践、辞书研究、英美文学、英语课程论、语言学理论与应用、心理语言学

试题名称：语言文学基础

试题编号：848

(答题一律做在答题纸上，并注明题目番号，否则答题无效)

注意：英美文学方向的考生只做 PART TWO，其余方向考生只做 PART ONE

PART ONE

I. Define the following terms briefly. (10 points)

1. code-switching
2. cognitive style
3. phoneme
4. coherence
5. deixis
6. duality
7. language aptitude
8. morpheme
9. prototype
10. semantic role

II. Compare the following pairs of terms briefly. (20 points)

1. hyponymy vs. meronymy
2. arbitrariness vs. iconicity
3. voiced sound vs. voiceless sound
4. truth conditions vs. felicity conditions
5. deep structure vs. surface structure

"Amen!" cried Goodman Brown. "Say thy prayers, dear Faith, and go to bed at dusk, and no harm will come to thee."

So they parted; and the young man pursued his way until, being about to turn the corner by the meeting-house, he looked back and saw the head of Faith still peeping after him with a melancholy air, in spite of her pink ribbons.

"Poor little Faith!" thought he, for his heart smote him. "What a wretch am I to leave her on such an errand! She talks of dreams, too. Methought as she spoke there was trouble in her face, as if a dream had warned her what work is to be done tonight. But no, no; 't would kill her to think it. Well, she's a blessed angel on earth; and after this one night I'll cling to her skirts and follow her to heaven."

Questions:

- (A) Who are the protagonists of the story?
- (B) Why does the wife hope Good Brown to stay in bed over the night?
- (C) Discuss the possible theme and linguistic style of the story.

V. Choose **TWO** of the following **SIX** topics to write an essay within no less than 200 English words for each. Use the topics you choose as titles of your essays.

Attention: Notice that you have to write **TWO** essays for this item. (50 points)

1. Shakespeare and His Plays.
2. The British Romantic Poetry.
3. D. H. Lawrence: a Great Writer of Love and Nature.
4. An Introduction to the American Poets: Whitman, Dickinson, Pound and Frost.
5. Mark Twain as I Know.
6. *The Old Man and the Sea* and the Lost Generation.

III. Point out the word-formation process that applies to each of the following words. (10 points)

1. helicopter parent
2. e-cash
3. a crazy
4. burgle
5. bus
6. smog
7. PIN
8. OPEC
9. GPS
10. MBA

IV. Paraphrase each of the following sentences in two different ways to show that you understand the ambiguity involved. Example: *She can't bear children* can mean either *She can't give birth to children* or *She can't tolerate children*. (20 points)

1. Terry loves his wife and so do I.
2. They said she would go yesterday.
3. The governor is a dirty street fighter.
4. The police were ordered to stop smoking.
5. Will you take the chair?

V. Comment on the meaning of *mean* or *meaning* in the following sentences. (20 points)

1. Those clouds *mean* rain.
2. Do you *mean* to wait?
3. Without love, life would have no *meaning*.
4. His losing job *means* that he will have to look again.
5. This building is *meant* for storage.

VI. Illustrate John Searle's five basic categories of illocutionary acts (15 points)

VII. There are strong connections between linguistic structure and social structure, to the extent that linguistic meaning is inseparable from ideology. For example, the following three headlines appeared in *The Observer*, *The Sunday Times*, and *The Sunday Telegraph* on 12 December, 1976:

- (1) a. NUS regrets fury over Joseph.
 b. Student leaders condemn insult to Keith Joseph.
 c. Students chiefs 'regret' attack on Sir Keith.

The headlines reported a sequence of events involving the conference of the National Union of Students and Sir Keith Joseph, a prominent right-wing member of the British Conservative opposition party in Parliament. On Friday, 10 December, Keith Joseph had attempted to attend the conference as an observer, was spotted, abused, and asked to leave after a voted decision by the delegates that he should not be allowed to stay. All but two members of the NUS executive had voted for his expulsion. The next day, the executive issued a rather tongue-in-cheek statement which might hint an apology to Keith Joseph. The newspaper reports give a brief account of the scene at the conference, and more space to the Saturday statement and to comments by various protagonists and interested parties.

Please analyze the three headlines above in terms of Critical Discourse Analysis. (10 points)

VIII. Consider the following group of sentences:

- (a) John killed Bill.
 (b) John caused Bill to die.
 (c) John caused Bill to become dead.
 (d) John caused Bill to become not alive.

Are these sentences synonymous? Can you think of contexts in which one of them would be true and another false, or in which one could be used while another could not? (15 points)

IV. Answer the following questions. (30 points)

1. Suggest and explain at least four properties of language which are rare or absent in animal communication (10 points)

2. A 30-ft tree standing upright in a forest is described as either "thirty feet *tall*" or "thirty feet *high*." If that tree were lying full length on the ground, it would have to be described as "thirty feet *long*". Explain what semantic distinction the English speaker relies on to determine the choice of the proper adjective (10 points)

3. A story by Robert Louis Stevenson contains the sentence *As the night fell, the wind rose*. Could this be expressed *As the wind rose, the night fell*? If not, why? Does this indicate a degree of nonarbitrariness about word order? (10 points)

THIS IS THE END OF PART ONE.

PART TWO

1. Each of the following questions has ONE correct answer only. Choose the one you think best fit by circling the number that goes before the answer. (25 points)

1. *The Canterbury Tales* was originally written in _____.
A. old English B. Latin C. French D. middle English
2. Which of the following statements best illustrates the theme of Shakespeare's Sonnet 18?
A. The speaker praises the power of artistic creation.
B. The speaker satirizes human vanity.
C. The speaker praises the power of nature.
D. The speaker meditates on man's salvation.
3. The theme of John Donne's poem "The Flea" is about _____.
A. death B. religious salvation C. animals D. love
4. John Milton's *Paradise Lost* has _____ books.
A. 12 B. 9 C. 10 D. 15
5. It is _____ who first used the third-person narrator in English novel writing.
A. John Bunyan B. Henry Fielding
C. Daniel Defoe D. Jonathan Swift
6. _____ is famous for his satirical style.
A. Daniel Defoe B. Samuel Richardson
C. Jonathan Swift D. Henry Fielding

18. Transcendentalists recognized _____ as the "highest power of the soul".
 A. intuition B. logic
 C. data of the senses D. thinking
19. What does Hester's letter "A" in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* eventually come to represent to the townspeople?
 A. "Able" B. "Alone"
 C. "Avaricious" D. "Absolutely Admirable"
20. William Faulkner set many of his short stories and novels in _____.
 A. Mississippi B. Oxford
 C. Yoknapatawpha County D. Massachusetts
21. Samuel Langhorne Clemens is the born name of _____.
 A. Henry James B. William Faulkner
 C. Simon Wheeler D. Mark Twain
22. _____ was the leader of a new movement in poetry which he called "Imagist" movement.
 A. T. S. Eliot B. Ezra Pound
 C. Robert Frost D. Emily Dickinson
23. The _____, a burst of literary achievement in the 1920 by the Negro writers, prepared the way for the emergence of numerous black writers after the middle of the 20th century.
 A. Romantic movement B. Realistic movement
 C. Harlem Renaissance D. leftist movement
24. The hero of *the Old Man and the Sea* is _____.
 A. Lieutenant Henry B. Brett Ashley
 C. Robert Cohn D. Santiago
25. By telling the story of Sethe and her daughter Denver, Toni Morrison's novel _____ examines both the mental and physical trauma caused by slavery as well as its effect on survivors.
 A. *Song of Solomon* B. *Beloved*
 C. *The Bluest Eye* D. *Paradise*

II. Interpret FOUR of the following six terms. (20 points)

1. Elizabethan Poetry
2. Gothic Novel
3. Neoclassicism
4. Modernism
5. Local Colorism in American Literature
6. Free Verse

III. Rewrite the following passages in simpler English prose. (30 points)

1

Know then thyself, presume not God to scan;
The proper study of mankind is man.
Plac'd on this Isthmus of a middle state,
A being darkly wise, and rudely great;
With too much knowledge for the Sceptic side,
With too much weakness for the Stoic's pride,
He hangs between; in doubt to act, or rest;
In doubt to deem himself a God, or Beast,
Born but to die, and reas'ning but to err;
Alike in ignorance, his Reason such,
Whether he thinks too little, or too much:
Chaos of Thought and Passion, all confus'd;
Still by himself abus'd, or dis-abus'd;
Created half to rise, and half to fall;
Great lord of all things, yet a Prey to all;
Sole Judge of truth, in endless Error hurl'd:
The glory, Jest, and Riddle of the world!
(From *An Essay on Man* by Alexander Pope)

2

When a girl leaves her home at eighteen, she does one of two things. Either she falls into saving hands and becomes better, or she rapidly assumes the cosmopolitan standard of virtue and becomes worse. Of an intermediate balance, under the circumstances, there is no possibility. The city has its cunning wiles, no less than the infinitely smaller and more human tempter. There are large forces which allure with all the soulfulness of expression possible in the most cultured human. The gleam of a thousand lights is often as effective as the persuasive light in a wooing and fascinating eye. Half the undoing of the unsophisticated and natural mind is accomplished by forces wholly superhuman. A blare of sound, a roar of life, a vast array of human hives, appeal to the astonished senses in equivocal terms. Without a counsellor at hand to whisper cautious interpretations, what falsehoods may not these things breathe into the unguarded ear! Unrecognized for what they are, their beauty, like music, too often relaxes, then weakens, then perverts the simpler human perceptions.

(from Chapter 1, *Sister Carrie* by Theodore Dreiser)

IV. Read the following two items and answer the questions followed. (25 points)

(1)

Living

In winter, once the ice on the lake is safe,
a group of local ice-fishers build a town
with houses, streets, a store, a tavern—
all the necessities—then move out there.

By day they wait for nothing they sense or see
until a line goes taut like a sudden thought,
and someone lifts a flash of silver
out of an opening in the surface.

With darkness, things are otherwise. Then the lights
that glitter on the shore they have left behind
amount to a new constellation
born in the lowliest part of heaven;

then sometime neighbors head to their tavern, where,
because they know the season is all too brief,
they stay up later than they mean to,
playing guitar, trading stories, drinking,

and feeling how expansive it strangely is
to have it all come down to this makeshift town
then, closer, to this point, this tavern
crowded with music and light and voices.

Past closing, now. The bartender, bound for what,
for the time being, is home, recollects the stars.
Out of a pocket near his heart he
fishes a flask of the local moonshine.

There is a dark below and a dark above;

the fish are darting stars, while the stars are schools
that drift so glacially their slightest
movement plays out over generations.

It is a private vision. Around him sleep
his customers and friends in their home-spun homes.
He takes a measured swig of liquor,
grimaces, grins. It is nearly daybreak.

Bill Coyle (1968—)

Question: Discuss the theme or themes of the poem.

(2)

from Young Goodman Brown

by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804—1864)

Young Goodman Brown came forth at sunset into the street at Salem village; but put his head back, after crossing the threshold, to exchange a parting kiss with his young wife. And Faith, as the wife was aptly named, thrust her own pretty head into the street, letting the wind play with the pink ribbons of her cap while she called to Goodman Brown.

"Dearest heart," whispered she, softly and rather sadly, when her lips were close to his ear, "prithee put off your journey until sunrise and sleep in your own bed to-night. A lone woman is troubled with such dreams and such thoughts that she's afraid of herself sometimes. Pray tarry with me this night, dear husband, of all nights in the year."

"My love and my Faith," replied young Goodman Brown, "of all nights in the year, this one night must I tarry away from thee. My journey, as thou callest it, forth and back again, must needs be done 'twixt now and sunrise. What, my sweet, pretty wife, dost thou doubt me already, and we but three months married?"

"Then God bless you!" said Faith, with the pink ribbons; "and may you find all well when you come back."