

浙江师范大学 2009 年硕士研究生入学考试试题

科目代码: 851科目名称: 英语写作

提示:

- 1、本科目适用专业: 050201 英语语言文学、050211 外国语言学及应用语言学;
- 2、请将所有答案写于答题纸上, 写在试题上的不给分;
- 3、请填写准考证号后 6 位: _____。

I. Summary writing (40%)

Read the following passage and write a summary of it in around 100 words.

Two aspects of participants need to be taken into consideration in reading the contextual grammar of speech situations: who they are and what roles they are taking. Naturally, of course, the sheer number of participants is a significant aspect of any communicative situation.

To begin with number first, any speech event needs to take into consideration the number of participants even if just to know how to prepare the setting. A meeting of 200 people cannot be easily held in a conference room. It is equally true, but for a very different reason, that a meeting of twenty people cannot be held in a large auditorium. In arranging for an event such as a lecture or a sales presentation, most professional communicators would prefer to arrange to have a space just a little larger than the number of people would require. If the space is too small, people are made uncomfortable since not everyone will be able to sit well or to see the main speaker or presenter. On the other hand if the space is very much too large, people will tend to be seated widely apart from each other and that will create a sense of isolation and social coldness.

Yet number is a relatively minor aspect of the study of participants. It is much more important to know who the participants are and what roles they take. It is well known, for example, that most governments have protocol offices whose job is to make sure that all participants in government functions will be given just the right treatment. Seating at state dinners, for example, is an important matter of correctly signifying the relative positions of power and authority among the invited guests.

A second aspect, of equal importance, is to understand not just who the participants are but what roles they are taking within the speech event. It is quite common, for example, for someone who is of major importance within a company or some other

organization to have what is an apparently insignificant role in an actual speech event. Often major decisions are made behind the scenes and the business which is conducted more openly is only done to legitimate or ratify decisions made elsewhere. We have often seen in companies, for example, cases where a junior company position is occupied by someone who is related to the owner or is, perhaps, held in high esteem by someone much more powerful in the company. In actual business events that person may appear to have a fairly insignificant role and nevertheless be more greatly empowered to make decisions than his or her official role would indicate.

One final point on the question of participant roles is important to make. While generalizations are dangerous, of course, it is perhaps safe to say that the tendency is for North American and other western companies to give a great deal of power to the individuals who represent them in international negotiations. There are two aspects to this power. It is often true that people higher up in the institutions are used to undertaking such negotiations. In addition, westerners tend to be less tied to their companies as individuals than Asians are to theirs. As a result, when westerners enter into a negotiation they know that if the negotiations fall through and they lose their position within the company as a result, they can always just leave the company and find another job elsewhere. Asians, on the other hand, are often put in the position of negotiating on behalf of someone else who actually holds the power to make decisions. This is for several reasons. It is probably true that decisions are made higher up in Asian companies than in North American companies. At the same time, in international negotiations it is usually people lower in the company structure who have a more agile command of intercultural communication and of English, and so they are given the position of conducting negotiations.

The result of this difference in the authority given to negotiators is that Asians are somewhat more restricted to just giving and taking information in such meetings than their North American counterparts, who are in the position of making their own decisions right there on the spot. This difference in participant roles is not likely to be known or very well understood by both parties. The result is that each assumes the other party has equivalent status and therefore cannot understand or cannot easily interpret the speakers' meanings of the sentences exchanged. The North American is likely to speak in terms of "I": "I will offer so much for a certain quantity." The Asian is likely to speak in terms of "we": "We cannot say immediately whether we can meet that price or that deadline." The North American's role may sound like exaggeration or egocentrism to the Asian. The Asian's role may sound like resistance or non-cooperation to the North American. In

either case the problem stems from the lack of understanding of differences in participant role structure.

II. Exposition writing (50%):

Nowadays with the development of higher education in China, existing universities and colleges are growing larger and new universities and colleges are appearing. What do you think is ONE of the major problems that may result from this process of higher education expansion? Write an essay in no less than 200 words.

Marks will be awarded on the basis of your organization, diction, grammar and appropriateness.

III. Argumentation writing (60%):

In most of senior middle schools in China, students are divided into two groups according to their own interest: liberal arts and science. Now people have different opinions about the issue. Some thought that as it is impossible for a person to learn everything in school, early division can help students focus on what they are interested in and well prepare for their study in universities, while others thought that early division would be detrimental to developing students in an all-round way.

What is your attitude toward this issue? Write a piece of argument in about 500 words. In the first part you should state your position clearly; in the second, you should supply relevant evidence to support your position and refute the opposing side's view; and finally you should bring your essay to a logical conclusion.

Marks will be awarded on the basis of your organization, diction, grammar and appropriateness.