

Linguistics Examination Paper for MA Candidates 2002

Shanghai University, December, 2001

Part I Define the following linguistic terms: (20 marks)

- 1. displacement
- 2. duality
- 3. synchronic study
- 4. hyponymy
- 5. pitch
- 6. cohesion
- 7. presupposition
- 8. deep structure
- 9. homonymy
- 10. polysemy

language par. 2 syntactic paradigmatic

Part II Decide whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE :(10 marks)

- 1. Bloomfield was the first real structuralist in American Linguistics. *F. Sapir*
- 2. The studies of modern linguistics are purely synchronic. *diachronic is important*
- 3. Different languages take different writing systems, and Chinese takes the word writing system. *T*
- 4. Ideolect refers to the language variety spoken by uneducated people. *F. sociolect*
- 5. In endocentric construction there is always a 'center' or 'head'. *T*

ex: boys and girls (Coordinate E-C)

Part III Put the following linguistic terms into English: (10 marks)

- 1. 蕴含
- 2. 假说
- 3. 命题
- 4. 述谓
- 5. 直接成分分析
- 6. 粘着语素
- 7. 双语
- 8. 语码转换
- 9. 逻辑语义
- 10. 词源学

ex: 2. green cheese (Coordinate E-C) 1. incredibly beautiful (Coordinate E-C)

Part IV (10 marks)

A. Provide a "superficially distinct" sentence which would have the same "underlying" structure as one of the following sentences:

- 1) Someone stole my bicycle. *The general scolded his commander at the gate.*
- 2) This cloth is easy to wash. *The process is so - called as - any kind - is not*
- 3) He pulled off his shirt. *He - pulled his shirt -*
- 4) She works out in the gym two or three times a week

ex: 1. He is tall (Coordinate E-C) 2. He is tall (Coordinate E-C) 1. He plays well (Coordinate E-C) 2. He plays well (Coordinate E-C)

B. Fill in the blanks with proper terms:

- 1. Not all the speech sounds occur in the same environment, When two sounds never occur in the same environment, they are said to be in _____. While sounds such as [p] and [b] as in 'pan' and 'ban', and [e] and [i] as in 'pen' and 'pin' are said to be in _____.
- 2. A group of words with its own subject and predicate, if it is included in a larger sentence, is a _____.
- 3. Bloomfield described meaning as an action of s _____ and response.
- 4. The type of language which is selected as appropriate to a type of situation is a r _____.

When two phones occur in sequence and some aspect of phoneme is taken or copied by the other. the process is known as Assimilation

Cohesion refers to ties and connections which exist within texts

When the meaning of one item is included in the meaning of another...

5.A b _____ is a word formed by combining parts of other words.

Part V (50 marks)

- 1. Discuss Bloomfield's understanding of "meaning" with reference to his adherence to behaviourism. (15 marks)
- 2. Why do people use the same word "beauty" though their esthetic beliefs vary? (15 marks)
- 3. Sum up the ideas of the following statement of Edward Sapir and make a brief comment on it: (20 marks)

sex 性别不同 审美观念不同

Language is a guide to "social reality". Though language is not ordinarily thought of as of essential interest to the students of social science, it powerfully conditions all our thinking about social problems and processes. Human beings do not live in the objective world alone, nor alone in the world of social activity as ordinarily understood, but are very much at the mercy of the particular language which has become the medium of expression for their society. It is quite an illusion to imagine that one adjusts to reality essentially without the use of language and that language is merely an incidental means of solving specific problems of communication or reflection. The fact of the matter is that the "real" world is to a large extent unconsciously built up on the language habits of the group. No two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality. The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached. (Sapir: 1929: 207-208)