

Linguistics 001

Mid-term Exam

October 22, 2001

Your Name _____ Your Penn ID No. _____

Please write your answers – in a legible way – in the printed copy of the exam. Correct answers should fit in the space provided. If you run into a problem with space because you’ve decided to cross out an answer you’ve written, you can write on the back of the sheet, indicating clearly where your answer is.

There are 27 questions Each correct answer will be worth 4 points, up to a maximum of 100; thus there are two “extra credit” questions.

1. An article entitled *Cooperating with Grice: a cross-disciplinary metaperspective on uses of Grice’s cooperative principle* probably deals mainly with which level of linguistic analysis (choose one)?
 - (a) phonetics
 - (b) phonology
 - (c) morphology
 - (d) syntax
 - (e) semantics
 - (f) pragmatics

2. An article entitled *Coarticulation, assimilation and blending in Catalan consonant clusters* probably deals mainly with which level of linguistic analysis (choose one)?
 - (a) phonetics
 - (b) phonology
 - (c) morphology
 - (d) syntax
 - (e) semantics
 - (f) pragmatics

3. An article entitled *The preference for self-correction in the organization of repair in conversation* probably deals mainly with which level of linguistic analysis (choose one)?
 - (a) phonetics
 - (b) phonology
 - (c) morphology
 - (d) syntax
 - (e) semantics
 - (f) pragmatics

4. Draw a line connecting each topic (in the right-hand column) with the person (in the left-hand column) who made the greatest contribution to it:

Peirce	meaning of sentences with multiple quantifiers
Chomsky	semiotics
Russell	grammar of Sanskrit
Austin	formal language theory
Paṇini	theory of speech acts

5. The following passage describes an evolutionary change in *homo sapiens*.

The lower position of the **X** alters dramatically the way humans breathe and swallow... The respiratory and digestive tracts now cross each other.

To restore the sense of this passage, **X** should be replaced by

- (a) velum
 - (b) tongue
 - (c) eustachian tube
 - (d) larynx
 - (e) mandible
6. What is the most probable “function” of the evolutionary change described in the last item?
7. A recent theory of human language origins, due to Robin Dunbar, can be summarized as (choose one)
- (a) speech is needed to plan and coordinate hunting
 - (b) shibboleths help establish social group identity
 - (c) verbal instructions are essential for tool making
 - (d) language transmits ancestral wisdom
 - (e) gossip is a substitute for grooming
8. Briefly define the term “theory of mind” as it is used in discussions of human and animal communication.
9. Give an example (from English) of inflectional overgeneralization, in which a regular inflectional suffix is added to a stem to make a word that can be used in place of an irregular form. Show what is the stem and what is the suffix in the overgeneralized form, and also give the corresponding expected irregular (and “correct”) form.
10. Give an example (from English) of derivational overgeneralization, in which a common derivational suffix is added to make a word that can be used in place of one whose derivational relationship is rarer or more irregular. Show what is the stem and what is the suffix in the overgeneralized form, and also give the expected (“correct”) form.

11. Give an example (in English) of a prescriptive “rule of grammar” that is not well supported either by logic or by common usage, and that is frequently violated even in well-regarded formal writing.

12. Give an example (in English) of a prescriptive “rule of grammar” that is never violated in formal writing or speech (except perhaps for special effect).

13. Give a reason why we should treat English plural /s/ as an inflectional affix (part of a word), but treat English possessive /s/ as a clitic.

14. Give an example (in English) of a *bound morpheme*, and a word in which it occurs.

15. The English affix *-ize* is largely restricted to (choose one)
 - (a) vocabulary of Germanic origin
 - (b) vocabulary of Romance origin
 - (c) technical and scientific vocabulary
 - (d) monosyllabic vocabulary
 - (e) recent borrowings from languages like Japanese

16. Give a constituent structure for each of the following phrases that is consistent with its normal meaning in English. You can use parentheses or draw tree structures, as you please.

chief postal inspector

suburban Maryland postal processing facility

September 11 terrorist attacks

Jet Propulsion Laboratory

17. A *velar* consonant is one that is characterized by
- (a) regular vibration of the glottis
 - (b) a harsh or breathy sound
 - (c) a constriction just above the larynx
 - (d) a constriction at the soft palate
 - (e) a constriction at the lips
18. Which of the following pairs of words **A::B** are in a relationship of *lexical entailment* such that **A** entails **B**? Mark each pair “yes” or “no”.
- up :: down
 - male :: female
 - snore :: sleep
 - table :: chair
 - succeed :: try
 - doctor :: nurse
19. Give an example in which the meaning of an English word is extended by *metonymy*.
20. Give an example in which the meaning of an English word is extended by *metaphor*.
21. Language-related sex differences in human biology concern
- (a) the larynx and the lips.
 - (b) the striate cortex and the mobility of the tongue tip.
 - (c) the *corpus callosum* and the larynx.
 - (d) the velum and the resonant cavities of the chest.
 - (e) the epiglottis and the soft palate.
22. Which of the following is NOT a felicity condition for the interpretation of “I’ll be there at five o’clock” as a threat?
- (a) I am capable of being there at five o’clock.
 - (b) I am willing to be there at five o’clock.
 - (c) You do not want me to be there at five o’clock.
 - (d) I am not already there and already committed to staying.
 - (e) I am wearing a watch and it keeps correct time.

23. Consider the pair of sentences “Several people approached. They seemed happy.” What is the co-reference relation between “several people” and “they”?
- (a) synonymy
 - (b) incompatibility
 - (c) deixis
 - (d) anaphora
 - (e) cataphora
24. What is the difference between *homonymy* and *polysemy*?
25. In the terminology of semiotics, an *icon* refers to
- (a) an arbitrary or conventional image.
 - (b) a sign linked to what it signifies by a causal chain.
 - (c) a sign that resembles what it signifies.
 - (d) an object popularly associated with successful people.
 - (e) a trendy or fashionable piece of slang terminology.
26. Whether or not a sound is *voiced* depends (mainly) on the configuration of the
- (a) tongue.
 - (b) epiglottis.
 - (c) velum.
 - (d) larynx.
 - (e) cerebellum.
27. The principle of semantic *compositionality* means that
- (a) sentence meanings are determined by speakers or writers, not by listeners or readers.
 - (b) the meaning of a phrase is a function of the meanings of its parts.
 - (c) the construction of a sentence, like that of a literary work, is creative rather than rule-governed.
 - (d) well-balanced structures are clearer than lopsided ones.
 - (e) speakers build new sentences out of pieces scavenged from old ones.