

Linguistics 001 Fall 2009 Final Exam

Name _____

Last four digits of Penn Card Number _____

In most cases, you should be able to fit your answers on the exam sheet, but if you need extra space, you can use your blue book. Be sure to put your name and last-four-digits on the blue book cover, and also indicate on the exam that which answers (or parts of answers) can be found in the blue book.

Section I: Multiple Choice (40 points)

Answer any 10 of the following 11 questions. If you feel that a question is ambiguous, or that more than one answer is in some sense correct, feel free to explain your reasoning.

1. Two languages are considered to be related members of a "language family"
 - (a) if the majority of members of their speech communities are of the same biological stock.
 - (b) if they developed by normal processes of language change from a common ancestor.
 - (c) if they share at least 50% of the words in their basic vocabulary.
 - (d) if their sound systems, word order and inflectional categories are essentially the same.
2. In a logographic writing system, the basic written units generally correspond to
 - (a) phonemes
 - (b) morphemes
 - (c) concepts
 - (d) speech acts
3. Human writing systems date from
 - (a) the time of the Cro-Magnon fossils, around 35,000 B.C.
 - (b) the epoch of plant and animal domestication and the invention of pottery, around 8000 B.C.
 - (c) just prior to the Bronze Age, around 3000 B.C.
 - (d) the invention of the alphabet by North Semitic peoples in Palestine and Syria about 1700 B.C.
 - (e) Panini's grammar in about 600 B.C.
4. Metered verse primarily involves restrictions on which aspects of language structure?
 - (a) phonology
 - (b) morphology
 - (c) syntax
 - (d) semantics
 - (e) pragmatics

5. When young children create plurals like “childs” and “sheeps”, this is best characterized as a case of
- (a) assimilation
 - (b) semantic shift
 - (c) regularization
 - (d) replacement
6. The change from Old Indic /mudgara/ “mallet” to Maharastri Prakrit /muggara/ is an example of
- (a) syncope
 - (b) epenthesis
 - (c) metathesis
 - (d) assimilation
 - (e) apocope
7. Language-related sex differences in human biology mainly involve
- (a) the striate cortex and the mobility of the tongue tip
 - (b) the region in the basal ganglia that controls speaking rate
 - (c) the larynx and the pharynx
 - (d) the resonant cavities of the chest
8. Arabic and Persian are
- (a) closely related members of the Semitic language family
 - (b) members of the Altaic language family
 - (c) distantly related members of the Afro-asiatic language family
 - (d) not related languages in any generally accepted theory
9. “Speech errors” involve substitutions, exchanges, anticipations, or perseverations of units at different levels of linguistic analysis. Circle the two levels that account for the largest fraction of such errors:
- Sentence
 - Phrase
 - Word
 - Morpheme
 - Syllable
 - Phoneme
 - Feature
10. Broca's Aphasia typically involves
- (a) labored speech, in a telegraphic style
 - (b) a fluent but incoherent stream of speech
 - (c) inability to access nouns in specific categories such as tools or animals
 - (d) frequent creations of meaningless neologisms
11. ... and is associated with damage to the
- (a) frontal lobe
 - (b) temporal lobe
 - (c) occipital lobe
 - (d) cerebellum

Section II: Short Fill-in answers (50 points)

Answer any 10 of the following 12 questions.

1. What is the meter of the following poem ("But I can't") by W.H. Auden? What constraints does this meter impose on the poet? Scan the first line.

If we should weep when clowns put on their show,
If we should stumble when musicians play,
Time will say nothing but I told you so.

There are no fortunes to be told, although,
Because I love you more than I can say,
If I could tell you I would let you know.

The winds must come from somewhere when they blow,
There must be reasons why the leaves decay;
Time will say nothing but I told you so.

Perhaps the roses really want to grow,
The vision seriously intends to stay;
If I could tell you I would let you know.

Suppose the lions all get up and go,
And all the brooks and soldiers run away;
Will Time say nothing but I told you so?
If I could tell you I would let you know.

2. Describe the typical symptoms of Broca's aphasia and Wernicke's aphasia.

3. What is the typical pattern of damage associated with the two syndromes just cited?

4. What is a spoonerism? Where does the term come from? Give an example.

5. What was Freud's theory of slips of the tongue and pen? How do the goals of modern speech-error researchers differ from Freud's?

6. What are the major stages of child language acquisition?

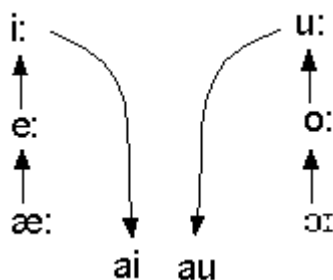
7. Explain the aphorism "A language is a dialect with an army and a navy".

8. Explain the two approaches to constitutional and statutory interpretation known as *textualist* and *purposive*.

9. What is the “Swadesh list”? How is it used?

10. What is the basic idea of *glottochronology*?

11. What event in the history of English does this diagram represent? Give examples of some of the words that were affected.



12. These days, the terms *sex* and *gender* are often distinguished, e.g. in talking about “sex differences” as opposed to “gender differences” in speaking styles or other aspects of language use. What's the intended distinction?

Section III: Freestyle (10 points)

Make up a question (relevant to the course) that can be answered in a couple of paragraphs of text, and answer it. You will be graded on the quality of your question as well as on the quality of your answer. As usual, both generality and specificity are rewarded.

The Question:

The Answer: