

1. In English, vowel nasalization, consonant length, and aspiration of voiceless stops are not phonemic features. Describe languages in which the above three are phonemic features. (15%)
2. What is homorganic rule? How does this rule reflect a progressive or regressive phonological process? Give at least two sets of examples for illustration. (10%)
3. Describe 'bottom-up processing' and 'top-down processing' in the cognitive process of linguistic activity. (10%)
4. Some grammatical relations (usually between nouns and nouns or nouns and verbs) can be expressed either 'inflectionally' or 'syntactically'. Describe how the following examples from English and Russian illustrate the above statements. (10%)

English

1. Maxim defends Victor.
2. Victor is defended by Maxim.
3. Victor defends Maxim.
4. Maxim is defended by Maxim.

Four ways to express 'Maxim defends Victor' in Russian

- Maksim zaščičajet Viktora.
 Maksim Viktora zaščičajet.
 Viktora Maksim zaščičajet.
 Viktora zaščičajet Maksim.

5. What is a 'pidgin'? What are the linguistic characteristics of pidgins? Describe its relationships with the two concepts 'superstrate' and 'substrate' languages. (20%)
6. Define the two terms 'function words' and 'content words' (5%). How do the two groups of words behave differently in terms of morphological and phonological aspects (10%)? It was claimed that human brain treats content and function words differently. Quote experiments or examples from speech errors produced by normal speakers or aphasia patients to illustrate the above claim (10%). Give one example to illustrate how the two groups of words play a role in grammaticalization process (10%).