

東吳大學 103 學年度碩士班研究生招生考試試題

第 1 頁，共 4 頁

系級	英文學系碩士班	考試時間	100 分鐘
科目	英文	本科總分	100 分

An Entrance English Test for Graduate Studies
English Department, Soochow University
 February 2014

General Directions: There are four parts in this test. Specific instructions are provided at the beginning of each part. Write all your answers on the **Answer Sheet**.

Part 1 (20%)

Define or explain the following terms.

1. phonetics
2. prefix
3. receptive skill
4. reading for gist
5. extensive listening
6. language proficiency
7. positive transfer
8. L1 acquisition
9. prescriptive grammar
10. TOEFL and IELTS

Part 2 (20%)

Read the following article and decide the statements True or False.

Accent and Dialect

(From Oxford Guide to British and American Culture)

Accent refers to the way a language is spoken. Most foreign speakers of English have accents which are influenced by their first language. Native speakers may have an accent associated with the region they come from. Accent includes both **pronunciation** (= the way sounds and words are spoken) and **intonation** (= the sound patterns of sentences). Each regional accent has its own mixture of sounds and intonation. The way in which individuals speak is also influenced by other factors, such as social background, age and level of education, and whether they have moved away from their home area.

The terms **variety** and **dialect** overlap. A variety may be a form of English associated with a group of people, e.g. Black English, with a particular region, e.g. British English and American English, or with an activity or function, e.g. legal English. A dialect is a variety that is usually associated with a geographical region. Dialects have a distinctive vocabulary and grammar, and when people speak in dialect they use an associated local accent.

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Authors such as Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, D H Lawrence, Mark Twain and Joel Chandler Harris (Uncle Remus) have used dialect very effectively in their books, but relatively little is now written in dialect.

Dialect or standard?

The word variety usually arouses fewer emotions than dialect. This is because dialects are often considered inferior to standard forms of English. In Britain, people may assume that somebody speaking in dialect has a lower-class background or has had little education. In the US, a dialect suggests where a person comes from but not their social status. Use of non-standard forms, such as ain't for 'isn't', 'aren't' or 'am not', which are found in many British and American dialects, is seen as a sign of a low level of education in both countries.

In Britain some dialects differ greatly from **standard English**, but many dialect speakers use standard English when speaking to people from another region. The accent called RP (**Received Pronunciation**) has been the one most closely associated in the past with educated speakers and is still used as a standard for foreign learners of English. The **marked** (= extreme) form of RP is restricted to the upper classes, but an ordinary, **unmarked** form is associated with standard English as traditionally used by the BBC. In fact the term is unknown to most British people, schools now pay much less attention to teaching it, and most people's speech has traces of a regional accent.

In the US General American English is the closest to a standard form and is heard on national television. Regional dialects have some differences in vocabulary, and their accents are distinctive, but it is uncommon for Americans from different parts of the country to have difficulty understanding each other. Vocabulary and accent are influenced as much by social contact, ethnic background, age, class and occupation as by regional boundaries. Varieties such as Black English, Jewish English, Hispanic English and Cajun English are based on ethnic background, but many of their features have become more widely known through the media. The accent that is closest to being a standard, and which is associated with General American English, is the **Midwestern** accent, which is spoken in most of the northern states and by many people throughout the country.

Accent and social status

In Britain attitudes towards accents and dialects are linked with regional and social prejudices, e.g. between the north and south. Standard English and RP originated in the south, in and around London, the capital and main cultural centre of the country. Anything northern can be seen as unsophisticated and inferior by some southerners and they may, however unfairly, consider people speaking with a northern accent to be less well educated. The **broader** (= stronger) the accent, the greater the prejudice against the person using it, especially if the accent is so **thick** (= strong) that others have difficulty understanding it. Urban accents such as Cockney, Scouse, Glaswegian and the Brummie accent are least favoured. Accents were for a long time used by comedians to make fun of people from a particular region or social group, but this is now less acceptable.

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Although RP is still widely used by professional people, its status, especially among younger people, is not as high as it was. Many public figures, such as politicians and broadcasters, now emphasize their regional accents rather than trying to lose them. And the development in the 1990s of **Estuary English**, a combination of Cockney and RP, can be seen as an attempt to reduce class difference. This trend away from RP seems likely to continue.

In the US accents provide much less information about people. It can be hard to identify where a person comes from by their accent, harder still to learn anything about their social position. The South is not as rich as the North, and African Americans are more likely to be poor than white people, but that says little about an individual with a particular accent. But at a local level, New Yorkers use accent as the basis for making judgements about their fellow citizens, and a Bostonian accent, the American equivalent of marked RP, helps identify the old, rich families of New England.

Attitudes to accents vary in different parts of the US. In big cities people barely notice accents, but in small towns and country areas people may be much more sensitive. The accent which is most widely criticized is **the southern drawl**. Many southerners feel embarrassed about their accent and try to modify it. There is some feeling in the US now that professional people should lose an accent which is considered less socially acceptable.

Decide the following statements True or False, and mark your answers on the Answer Sheet.

11. According to this article, most foreign speakers of English have accents due to the influence of their mother tongue.
12. Accent includes both pronunciation and intonation.
13. Many other factors, such as social background, age and level of education, and whether they have moved away from their home area, also influence people's accent.
14. A dialect is a variety that is usually associated with a group of people in certain area.
15. In both Britain and the US, people may assume that somebody speaking in dialect has a lower-class background or has had little education.
16. BBC's English is considered as a kind of ordinary RP.
17. It is rare for Americans to understand each other from different parts of the country.
18. General American English is widely spoken in most of the northern states and by many people throughout the country.
19. In Britain and the US attitudes towards accents and dialects are linked with regional and social prejudices.
20. In the US, people in big cities pay little attention to accents, but those in small towns and countryside may be much more aware of one's accent.

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Part 3 (30 %)

Briefly answer the following questions. Write your answers on the Answer Sheet.

21. What is the difference between a transitive verb and an intransitive verb?
22. What is the difference between *Language Acquisition* and *Language Learning*?

Part 4 (30 %)

Answer the following essay question. Make sure that your essay is well organized and clearly presented.

What do you expect to learn in your postgraduate studies?

Write your essay on the Answer Sheet. You should write at least 250 words.

※不可書寫個人姓名或任何足以識別
身分之文字或符號

This is the end of the test.