

中原大學 100 學年度 碩士班 入學考試

3 月 19 日 15:30~17:00 應用外國語文學系

誠實是我們珍視的美德，
我們喜愛「拒絕作弊，堅守正直」的你！

科目：語言學概論

(共 3 頁 第 1 頁)

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1. Define or explain the following terms. Give examples whenever possible. (40%)

- a. phonotactics
- b. recursive rule
- c. tone language
- d. structure dependency
- e. distinctive features
- f. Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
- g. analytic language
- h. sociolinguistic variable

2. Give an articulatory description of the phonetic symbols below. (5%)

Example: [p]: voiceless bilabial stop

- a. [k]
- b. [j]
- c. [h]
- d. [s]
- e. [ŋ]

3. Explain briefly why the words *door*, *lax* and *knee* show that the regular English alphabet is not suitable to represent the speech sounds of English. (5%)

4. It has been claimed that languages can differ as to whether the heads (in X-bar terms) are initial or final in their X-bar projections. Consider the following generalization proposed by Joseph Greenberg:

Universal 9: With well more than chance frequency, when question particles or affixes are specified in position by reference to the sentence as a whole, if initial, such elements are found in prepositional languages, and, if final, in postpositional.

Question: What functional category do you believe question particles or affixes to be, and how would you explain *Universal 9* in terms of X-bar theory and the claim in the first sentence of this problem. (10%)

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5. As concerns the characters of linguistic signs, one of the basic principles postulated by Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) is “the arbitrariness of linguistic signs”, i.e. the relationship between the signifier and the signified is fundamentally arbitrary. However, the onomatopoeic words (e.g. “cuckoo”) and interjections (e.g. “ouch”) exist in almost all languages. Do you think this phenomenon goes against Saussure’s principle? Give your reasons. (10%)

6. It has been recognized by linguists and philosophers that the relationship between language and the extralinguistic world is far more complex than it is thought. It has been proposed by several linguists that words are not simply names for pre-existing categories of objects, and the extralinguistic reality is not categorized until by language. Moreover, different languages have categorized the same world in different ways. Can you give “two examples” in different languages (e.g. Chinese vs. English, or others) to elaborate the notion of “linguistic categorization”? (10%)

7. Compound words are traditionally considered a major group of morphologically motivated expressions, which in turn can be classified into three types according to the degree of word-formation transparency:

- (1) “teaspoon”, for example, is highly motivated because anyone who knows the meaning of the two morphemes will also understand the formation of the compound.
- (2) compound words which can not be immediately understood simply by linking the meanings of the two (or more) components together. Certain extralinguistic knowledge should also be involved in decoding such expressions, as for instance in “keyboard”, “queen size”, or “call girl”.
- (3) compounds in which the connection between the components is obscure, e.g. “butterfly”, “dandelion”, “lady bird”, etc.

Now, can you give “two examples” for each type of the compound words in your own native language (Mandarin, Taiwanese, or Hakka, etc.) and explain why you classify those words in such a way. (10%)

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8. Traditionally, a metaphor can be analyzed into a formula involving three aspects, namely “tenor”, “vehicle”, and “ground”, as follows:

X is like Y in respect of Z (e.g. *Sun is the eye of heaven*)

In the above formula, X is the tenor, Y is called the vehicle and Z presents the ground (i.e. the similarity such as shape, brightness, etc. between the sun and “eye of heaven”)

Based on this formula, please analyze the following metaphors in terms of tenor, vehicle and ground: (10%)

- (1) Love is a journey.
- (2) Time is money.
- (3) John is an old fox.