

Survey of Linguistic Theories Assignment I Due Date: 07/04/2014

Answer any 5 of these questions (3 marks each = 15 marks)

1. (a) What are our objectives in this course? What are we trying to achieve? (b) Why did linguistic thought develop independently in different societies? Why do we focus on Western linguistics in this course? (c) What is the significance of the invention of the Alphabet, as opposed to other systems of writing?
2. Explain the methods of dialectical reasoning as opposed to metaphysical reasoning. Explain the process of cognition/ learning, and why synthesis & analysis of ideas are both vital parts of the process.
3. Describe the achievements of ancient thinkers in (a) India, (b) China, and (c) Mesopotamia. What were their main concerns that shaped their thoughts?
4. Describe the achievements of Ancient Greek philosophers: (a) the Sophists; (b) Socrates; (c) Plato; (d) Aristotle; (e) the Stoics, and (f) Thrax.
5. Describe the issues raised in the two major debates of Antiquity: (a) The Nomos vs. Physis debate and (b) The Analogy vs. Anomaly debate.
6. Characterize the state of linguistic thought in Ancient Rome; explain why it developed the way it did.
7. Why do we call Saussure the 'Father' of modern linguistics? What was the qualitative change in his approach to language study?
8. Draw the TIMELINE illustrating the 3 phases in the development of Western Linguistics, benchmarking / labeling the major events in its history.