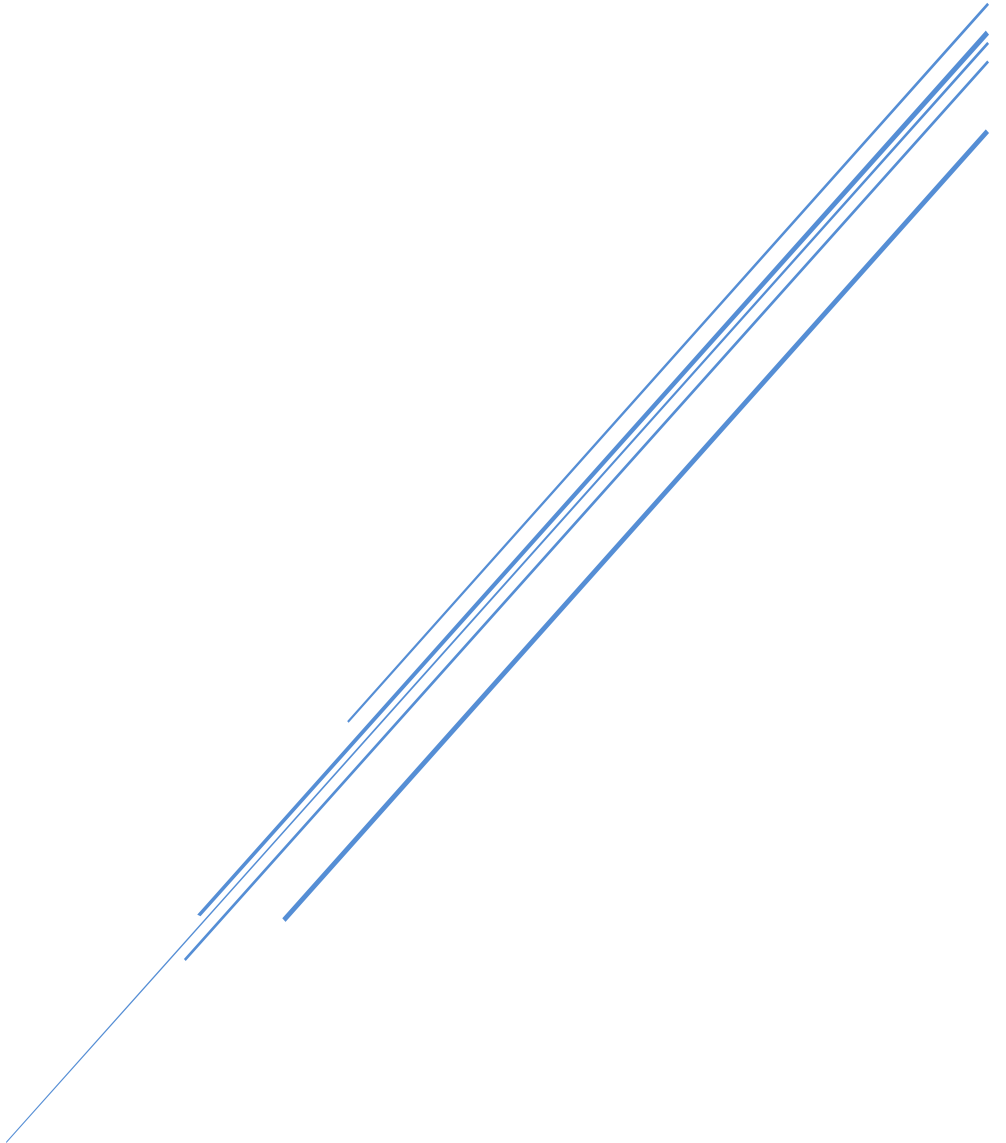


APPENDIX VI

Introduction to Linguistics: Past Exam Papers



The University of Papua New Guinea
Second Semester Examination – 2008

Course Number: 4.11406
Title of Paper: Introduction to Linguistics
Sequence of Papers: One of One
Time Allowed: 3 Hours plus 10 Minutes Reading Time

Instructions to Candidates: Follow Detailed Instructions in the Exam Paper

Marking Scheme: The Value of Each Question Is Indicated

Aids To Be Provided by:

Students' Administration: Wall Clock

Linguistics Strand: Dictionary

Aids Candidates May Take into Examination

Room: Pens, Rulers, Erasers, Correction Fluid, a Dictionary

Name: _____ **ID No.** _____

This exam has three parts: a section of multiple choice questions, a section of short answer questions, and a practical task section.

Part I: Multiple Choice Questions (30 marks)

Instructions: Select the best answer for **30 out of the 31** questions (1 mark each x 30 = 30 marks):

1. Language may be defined as

- a. The expression of symbolic thought
- b. Symbolic thought expressed through structured serial interface of arbitrary sound symbols
- c. A combinatorial communication system based on sound
- d. A system of arbitrary vocal symbols
- e. A system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for communication

2. Symbols represent

- a. Objects
- b. Ideas
- c. Relationships
- d. Arbitrary facts
- e. Ambiguous thoughts

3. Each symbol is

- a. A particular form associated with a particular meaning
- b. An aural form associated with a particular meaning
- c. A visual form associated with a particular meaning
- d. An oral form associated with a particular meaning
- e. An ambiguous form associated with a particular meaning

4. Iconicity implies

- a. A form suggestive of its meaning
- b. An ambiguous link between form and meaning
- c. An implied relationship between an ambiguous form and meaning
- d. That a particular visual form has a direct link to its meaning

5. The most important difference between human Language and other systems of animal communication based on sound is

- a. Structure dependence
- b. Duality
- c. Cultural transmission
- d. Symbolic representation

- e. Creativity
 - f. Discreteness
 - g. Displacement
- 6. Duality is a defining feature of human language referring to its ability to**
- a. Create different meanings through different combinations of linguistic units
 - b. Refer to events removed in space and time
 - c. Differentiate meanings because of differences in aural forms
- 7. A variety of language that has noticeable differences in structure or vocabulary from other varieties is called**
- a. A dialect
 - b. An accent
 - c. An idiolect
 - d. A variation
 - e. Jargon
- 8. Individual variations in a person's use of language constitute**
- a. A dialect
 - b. An accent
 - c. An idiolect
 - d. A variation
 - e. Jargon
- 9. Dialects of the same language which can be understood by speakers of other dialects are called**
- a. Maxims
 - b. Ambiguous expressions
 - c. Mutually unintelligible
 - d. Mutually intelligible
- 10. The grammar of Language is made up of**
- a. Phonetics, syntax and semantics
 - b. Phonetics, morphology and syntax
 - c. Phonology, syntax and semantics
 - d. Phonology, morphology and semantics
- 11. Which of the following is NOT part of the human speech apparatus?**
- a. Glottis
 - b. Pharynx
 - c. Teeth
 - d. Nasal cavity
 - e. Oesophagus

12. There are different aspects of articulation to describe a consonant:

- a. Manner, place, voicing aspects
- b. Bilabial, alveolar, and palatal aspects
- c. Lax/tense, front/back, close/open aspects
- d. Obstruent, sonorant, nasal aspects
- e. Plosive, fricative, affricate aspects

13. The position of the tongue changes during the pronunciation of certain vowels. It occurs when pronouncing

- a. [ɛ]
- b. [a]
- c. [i]
- d. [ai]
- e. [ʊ]

14. _____ is determined by four aspects of pronunciation

- a. Consonant quality
- b. Nasal quality
- c. Vowel quality
- d. Pitch and tone quality
- e. Obstruent quality

15. The way in which a sound is made is called

- a. Primary speech production
- b. Manner of articulation
- c. Phonemic sound quality
- d. Place of articulation

16. The following sounds are affricates:

- a. [t, d]
- b. [k, g]
- c. [ʃ, ʒ]
- d. [tʃ, dʒ]
- e. [s, z]

17. Examples of bilabial consonants in English are

- a. [f, v]
- b. [p, b]
- c. [l, n]
- d. [w, m]

e. [θ, ð]

18. The glottis is open when pronouncing

- a. Voiced consonants
- b. Voiceless consonants
- c. Fricatives and plosives
- d. Nasals
- e. Liquid sounds

19. The phonetic form of the word can be found when

- a. The glottis is open
- b. The word is arbitrary
- c. Phonological rules are applied
- d. The glottis is closed
- e. Morphological structure is arbitrary

20. Allophones are _____ sounds of a phoneme.

- a. Distinctive
- b. Non-distinctive
- c. Assimilated
- d. Non-aspirated
- e. Neutralized

21. Minimal pairs are used to find _____ phonemes.

- a. Rhyming
- b. Small
- c. Meaningful
- d. Stressed
- e. Individual

22. The words *win* and *thin* are minimal pairs because

- a. All the phonemes are the same except one
- b. They rhyme
- c. They differ only in one sound in the same position
- d. The stress and tone is the same
- e. Both words are meaningful

23. Find minimal pairs amongst these pairs of words:

- a. [eim], [feim]
- b. [tip], [pit]
- c. [meit], [mæt]
- d. [piəs], [pʌs]

e. [fi:l], [li:f]

24. A pair of phones is _____ if interchanging them results in change of word meaning

- a. Allophones
- b. Contrastive
- c. Non-contrastive
- d. Variant
- e. Segmental

25. Morphemes are

- a. Pieces of words stored in our memory
- b. The smallest linguistic symbols
- c. Syllabic meanings
- d. Derivational affixes
- e. Inflectional suffixes

26. The words *daughter, shorter, mortar, porter, sorter* and *water* are

- a. Rhyming sequences of speech sounds
- b. Words with different meanings
- c. Minimal pairs
- d. A minimal set
- e. Distinctive phonemic sequences

27. Speech sounds are

- a. Sounds made with the help of the human speech mechanism
- b. Constituents of words
- c. Natural classes of sounds
- d. Produced in the vocal tract
- e. Parts of speech

28. Words are

- a. Minimal free forms
- b. Uninterruptible and mobile minimal free symbols
- c. Sequences of speech sounds
- d. A relative concept
- e. Elusive and arbitrary

29. Syntax is

- a. Rules of constructing grammatical sequences
- b. The rules of word formation
- c. The part of grammar dealing with the structure of words
- d. Rules of combining words into phrases and sentences
- e. Part of the grammar of every human language

30. Morphology is

- a. Part of syntax
- b. The rules of word structure and formation
- c. The rules of sound combination
- d. Phonotactics
- e. Part of the grammar of a language

31. Natural classes of sounds are groupings of sounds based on

- a. Their sound quality
- b. The common features they share
- c. The distinctive features of sounds
- d. The variation of sound quality
- e. The place of articulation

Part II: Short Answer Questions (20 marks)

Instructions: Give 1-2 sentence answers to 10 of the following questions (2 marks each)

- Q 1 How Does Linguistics Differ from Traditional Grammar?
- Q 2 What is the fundamental difference between the human language and other forms of communication based on sound?
- Q 3 Distinguish between synchronic and diachronic linguistics.
- Q 4 What 2 senses are vital for spoken and written communication?
- Q 5 What makes human voice distinct from other sounds we hear?
- Q 6 What is the defining feature of human language called *displacement*?
- Q 7 What are the stages in the Speech Chain? Why is speech production dependent on speech perception?
- Q 8 What is glottis, and what positions can it be in during speech?
- Q 9 Why is the tongue so vital in speech production that we sometimes refer to languages as ‘tongues’?
- Q 10 What is the difference between Consonants and Vowels?
- Q 11 What is the defining feature of human language called *duality*?

- Q 12 What is *onomatopoeia*? Give examples.
- Q 13 What is IPA?
- Q 14 Why is the knowledge of phonetic symbols useful to us?
- Q 15 Define the Concepts of Minimal Pair/Minimal Set. Give examples.

Part III: Practical Tasks

(Total = 50 marks)

Answer all questions. You need not copy the questions in the examination booklet, merely indicate the question numbers. The value of each question is 10 marks.

- Q 1 Can you read these sentences? Write them out in English alphabet:
(2 x 5 = 10 marks)

weə dʒə liv]
[ai wɔnə gəʊ hɔʊm]
[wɔtʃə wɔnə du:]
[hau dʒə noʊ]
[dəʊntʃə θiŋk]

- Q 2 Transcribe: *book, share, language, syntax, morphology* (10 marks)
2 marks Bonus: linguistic theory

- Q 3 These words come from the Lenakel language of Tanna, Vanuatu. Do the sounds [k] and [g] belong to different phonemes? Why? (10 marks)

[gən] *eat* [gəs] *bite* [kuri] *dog* [kən] *eat*
[guri] *dog* [gɛsi] *pawpaw* [gahaw] *rat* [agar] *talk*
[kahaw] *rat* [kəs] *bite*

- Q 4 Look at the following data from the Motu language (Central Province, PNG), then answer the questions below: (10 marks)

naitamu *I saw you* eitaia *he saw him*
oitagu *you saw me* ohelai *you sat down*

nahelai *I sat down* ekiri *he laughed*

nakiri *I laughed*

1. The morpheme meaning ‘*I*’ is: _____
2. The morpheme –**mu** means: _____
3. The morpheme meaning ‘*saw*’ is: _____
4. If **ala** is a morpheme meaning ‘kill’, how would you say, ‘you killed him’?

Q 5 True or False? Write ‘T’ or ‘F’ in the spaces provided (1 point each = 10 marks)

1		A word is always bigger than a morpheme
2		Affixes are bound non-roots
3		The /-s/ plural morpheme in English has no allomorphs
4		The word ‘unrealistically’ contains 4 morphemes
5		Morphophonemics is phonological conditioning
6		Inflectional morphemes change only the grammatical meaning of words
7		Syllable is a unit of sound
8		Syllables usually contain only one vowel
9		Phonemes differentiate words
10		Phonotactics is the rules of combining sounds; sequential constraints

End of Exam!!!