



**The English and Foreign Languages University
Hyderabad – 500007, INDIA**

Model Paper 2016

PhD: Linguistics and Phonetics

Max. Marks: 70

Time allotted: 2 hours

(The marks awarded for the written test is 70 and the remaining 30 will be for the interview)

Given below are ONLY sample questions. These questions may not quite reflect the level of difficulty of questions in the main question paper.

Notes and Instructions:

- a. The question paper has **TWO** parts: A and B.
- b. Part A has 45 questions and tests knowledge of syntax, semantics, phonology, morphology and phonetics. Attempt **ALL** questions in this part.
- c. Part B has 10 questions from each of the four sections: Psycholinguistics, Applied Phonetics, Computational Linguistics and Sociolinguistics. Attempt any **ONE** of these sections.
- d. **DO NOT ATTEMPT** some questions from one section and some from another in PART B.
- e. Questions 1-15 carry two marks each and questions 16-45 carry one mark each. Questions 46-55 in Part B carry one mark each.

PART A

1. In the sentence *John gave Mary a book*
 - A. The Theme argument asymmetrically c-commands the Goal
 - B. The Goal argument asymmetrically c-commands the Theme
 - C. The Goal and the Theme c-command each other
 - D. Neither the Goal c-commands the Theme nor the Theme c-commands the Goal.

2. In truth conditional semantics, the denotation of a proposition is
 - A. a truth value
 - B. function from the set of entities to the set of truth values
 - C. an argument
 - D. an ordered pair of entities

3. The /t/ in *atrocious* is aspirated but the first one in *Atlantic* is not. Why are these two different?
 - A. The /t/ in /tr/ is syllable initial, that in /tl/ is not.
 - B. Voiceless stops are aspirated before /r/ but never before /l/.
 - C. The stressed vowel of *atrocious* is tense, that of *Atlantic* is lax.
 - D. The stressed syllable of *atrocious* is open, that of *Atlantic* is closed.

4. Examine the data given below and state in informal terms why the past tense forms in A are possible but not the ones in B.

| present | A | past | B |
|------------|-------------|------|---------------|
| undergo | underwent | | *undergoed |
| underfeed | underfed | | *underfeeded |
| withhold | withheld | | *withholded |
| withstand | withstood | | *withstanded |
| withdraw | withdrew | | *withdrewed |
| overtake | overtook | | *overtaked |
| self-teach | self-taught | | *self-teached |

- A. Regular inflections attach in Stratum 2 and compounding in Stratum 3.
 - B. Irregular inflections attach in Stratum 1 and compounding in Stratum 3.
 - C. Regular inflections attach in Stratum 2 and compounding in Stratum 1.
 - D. Irregular inflections attach in Stratum 4 and compounding in Stratum

5. Pronounce the following sentence in a neutral, non-focused way: *People with credit cards are advised not to use them.* –Where does the tonic fall?
 - A. -vised
 - B. not
 - C. use
 - D. them

Look at the following sentences:

- i) *John gave a book to Mary*
- ii) *A book was given to Mary*
- iii) *Mary was given a book*
- iv) **A book was given Mary*
- v) *John gave Mary a book*

6. According to Chomsky 1981, the NP *a book* in (i) gets case assigned to it by ...
- A. Tense
 - B. V
 - C. an empty preposition
 - D. It has an inherent case
7. According to Chomsky 1981, (iv) is starred because
- A. *a book* is not assigned a case
 - B. *Mary* is not assigned case
 - C. neither *a book* nor *Mary* has a case
 - D. Chomsky 1981 has no account of the ungrammaticality of (iv).
8. According to Chomsky 1995, the case of the NP *a book* in (i) is checked by ...
- A. *v*
 - B. V
 - C. an empty C^0
 - D. It does not require case checking
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16. The denotation of the intransitive verb *sleep* is
- A. the activity of sleeping
 - B. the set of all *x* such that *x* sleeps
 - C. the null set
 - D. the universal set
17. The distinction between *Sinn* and *Bedeutung* was drawn by
- A. Tarski
 - B. Frege
 - C. Wittgenstein
 - D. Davidson

American English

A. The following data set contains careful speech and fast speech forms from an English speaker. Note the differences and tick the correct answer from the choices given below:

| | Careful Speech | Fast Speech | Spelt Form |
|-----|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| (a) | [ˈæspərən] | [ˈæsprən] | aspirin |
| (b) | [pɔːrsələn] | [pɔːrslən] | porcelain |
| (c) | [næʃənəlaɪz] | [næʃnəlaɪz] | nationalize |
| (d) | [rɪznəbəl] | [rɪznəbəl] | reasonable |
| (e) | [ɪmædʒənətɪv] | [ɪmædʒnətɪv] | imaginative |

18. The rule that applies in fast speech is:

- A. stress shift
- B. de-stressing
- C. schwa deletion
- D. non-final stress assignment

B. Now, look at the following two words:

| | | | | |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| (f) | [mɛθəd] | [mɛθəd] | *[mɛθd] | method |
| (g) | [fɛjməs] | [fɛjməs] | *[fɛjms] | famous |

19. Why is there no schwa deletion in these two words?

- A. Schwa does not delete before voiceless sounds.
- B. Schwa does not delete when it is in the last syllable.
- C. Schwa does not delete after nasals.
- D. Schwa does not delete when preceded by a long, stressed vowel.

20. The rule discussed above is a:

- A. Cyclic rule
- B. Register-based rule
- C. Post-lexical rule
- D. Word-level rule

Examine the data given below carefully and answer the questions.

A. Using the words below as evidence, answer the questions given below:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| booksellers | *booksellers |
| bus drivers | *busses drivers |
| tax-collectors | * taxes-collectors |
| shopkeepers | *shopskeepers |

21. This is an example of a:

- A. Left-headed compound
- B. Noun-Noun compound
- C. Exocentric compound
- D. Deverbal compound

22. The data given above shows that:
- A. Inflection formation and compounding are simultaneous in English.
 - B. Inflection formation follows compounding in English.
 - C. Inflection formation precedes compounding in English.
 - D. There is a loop from compounding to inflection formation.

Now, examine the following data:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| grants-in-aid | *grant-in-aids |
| commanders-in-chief | *commander-in-chiefs |
| sisters –in law | *sister-in laws |

23. These are:
- A. left-headed compounds
 - B. right-headed compounds
 - C. deverbal compounds
 - D. denominal compounds

Select the correct phonetic transcription for each word.

24. enthrone

- A. [ɛ̃n θɹəʊ̃n]
- B. [ɛ̃n θɹəʊ̃n̩]
- C. [ɛ̃n θɹəʊ̃n̩]
- D. [ɛ̃n θɹəʊ̃n̩]

25. dragon

- A. [dɹæɡʌn]
- B. [dɹæɡn̩]
- C. [dɹæɡɔ̃n]
- D. [dɹæɡɔ̃n̩]

Select, as required, the appropriate meaning for each sentence, or the sentence marked for intonation to suit the meaning. (5 sentences)

26. // ˌ ʌ You're ' not ~ well. //

- A. How can they expect you to finish the work?
- B. Are you not well?
- C. I can see that you are not well.
- D. Don't be hard on yourself!

27. // ˘ Jane , doesn't , need it //

- A. 'I am telling you.'
- B. '....Sheila might want it.'
- C. 'Doesn't Jane need it?'
- D. '...so why are you forcing it on to her?'

28.....

29.....

30.....

31.....

55.....

PART B

ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS FROM ANY **ONE** OF THE SECTIONS GIVEN BELOW:

Section A: Psycholinguistics

Section B: Computational Linguistics

Section C: Sociolinguistics

Section D: Applied Phonetics

SECTION A: PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

A. Examine the data from John, a 3;8 year old child learning English and answer the questions in the space provided. The adult and the child pronunciations have been given.

| | SET A | | SET B | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| | <i>Adult</i> | <i>Child</i> | <i>Adult</i> | <i>Child</i> | |
| a | bridge | [bwi] | e | flag | [wæg] |
| b | train | [twen] | F | snake | [neg] |
| c | crayon | [kwea] | g | sled | [led] |
| d | clown | [kwaun] | h | stove | [dov] |

46. The child's pronunciations in Set A suggests
- A. overuse of glides
 - B. tendency to simplify clusters
 - C. difficulty in producing liquids
 - D. tendency to avoid coda
47. The child's pronunciations in Set B suggests
- A. tendency to simplify clusters
 - B. dropping of initial onset consonants
 - C. reduction of vowel length
 - D. substitution of consonants
48. Which of the following would be LEAST likely to serve as an effective prime for the word "bread"?
- A. thread
 - B. butter
 - C. whole wheat
 - D. pie
49. Which of the following trials will show typicality effects for the bird category in the Indian context?
- Trial 1: An owl is a bird.
 - Trial 2: A penguin is a bird.
 - Trial 3: A sparrow is a bird.
 - Trial 4: A robin is a bird
- A. An owl is a bird
 - B. A penguin is a bird
 - C. A sparrow is a bird
 - D. A robin is a bird
- 50.-55

SECTION B: COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS

46. MFC stands for
- A. Mel-frequency cepstrum.
 - B. Mel-frequency coefficient.
 - C. Main frequency coefficient.
 - D. Main frequency correlation.
47. In signal processing, cross-correlation is used for
- A. measuring the length of a wave.
 - B. searching a long signal for a shorter, known feature.
 - C. identifying the frequency of a signal.
 - D. deciding the amplitude of a wave.
48. Typical constraints used anaphora resolution are:
- A. Agreement constraints
 - B. Selectional restrictions
 - C. C-command constraints
 - D. phonological constraints
49. Knowledge-based MT of Carnegie-Mellon University is an example of
- A. Example-based MT
 - B. Statistical MT
 - C. Interlingua-based MT
 - D. Hybrid MT
50. Which of the following may not be used in Tagging?
- A. context-pattern rules
 - B. likelihood of occurrence of a pattern
 - C. trained corpus
 - D. removing punctuation

51-55.....

SECTION C: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

46. Who among the following sociolinguists is associated with the notion of elaborate code and restricted code?
- A. Basil Bernstein
 - B. Emile Durkheim
 - C. Robert King Merton
 - D. Bloomfield
47. Language determines one's thoughts and perceptions as well as cultural traits. Which among the following hypotheses upholds this dictum?
- A. Linguistic relativity
 - B. Linguistic determinism
 - C. Cultural determinism
 - D. Cultural relativity
48. Language shift and maintenance can happen in
- A. Small rural community
 - B. Urban monolingual community
 - C. Rural monolingual community
 - D. Urban multilingual community
49. Which among the following categories of bilinguals uses translation as a strategy in matters pertaining to communication?
- A. Compound bilinguals
 - B. Co ordinate bilinguals
 - C. Subordinate bilinguals
 - D. Both compound and co ordinate bilinguals
50. Most of the languages are sexist in nature because:
- A. Most of the superordinate terms in languages are masculine in nature.
 - B. The slangs and abusive words are mostly targeted against females in the society
 - C. Languages bear the traces of patriarchal mindset of the society and lexical inequality.
 - D. Languages were made by men.
51. -55

SECTION D: APPLIED PHONETICS

46. Sunil has acute nasal congestion because of severe cold. The condition primarily affects the following aspect of speech.
- A. pitch
 - B. loudness
 - C. resonance
 - D. tempo
47. An upward movement of glottis produces
- A. ejectives
 - B. implosives
 - C. clicks
 - D. trills
48. Lipping is a mild speech defect wherein the alveolar sound are usually replaced by ____ sounds.
- A. velar
 - B. dental
 - C. glottal
 - D. palatal
49. If a vowel is spoken with an F_0 of 120 Hz, its third harmonic is
- A. 160 Hz
 - B. 320 Hz
 - C. 240 Hz
 - D. 360 Hz
50. In the production of _____, air is repeatedly interrupted by an articulator vibrating in an airstream.
- A. approximant
 - B. trill
 - C. flap
 - D. tap

51-55.....