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BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2023
Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2019/M.A.(ENG)-2021
Course Name – Approaches to Literature
Course Code - MELS301
(Semester III)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

(i) Estimate how Wolfgang Iser draws upon the work of Liang to explain the interaction between the reader and the text

a)

In the case of reading a text, there is no common code because the imaginary lines are not fixed or determined each reader may draw the structure in her individual way, even in new ways each time she reads the text.

b) He compares reading one-to-one

communication where neither of us know what the other is experiencing. So we seem to be invisible or no-thing to each other but we build upon our perception of what the other might be thinking in order to fill in the nothing. This filling in is exactly what the reader also does.

c)

In reading there is no face-to-face as in social communication but the reader can ask the text to verify her views

d) Iser claims that in social communication, gaps arise because we can experience each other's thoughts and are filled according to a common situation and conventions

(ii) Express which of the following is true of Phaedrus's army of lovers Statement 1: Such an army would never do any shameful act since lovers would not want their beloveds to be disdainful of them Statement 2: Such an army would be useless since all of them would be preoccupied of protecting each other

a) Statement 1 is correct

b) Statement 2 is correct

c) Both Statements are correct

d) None of the above

(iii) Which of the following statements best describes the idea of the metaphysics of presence?

a)

It refers to that extrinsic quality of the sound image that allows the signifier to connote differentially

b) It refers to that intrinsic element encapsulated within every signifier that allows the perception of the signified differently

- c) Both of the above
d) None of the above
- (iv) Which critic is not a part of the Structuralist narratology
a) Vladimir Propp
b) Tzvetan Todorov
c) Roland Barthes
d) Hegel
- (v) Who among the following is a poststructuralist thinker?
a) Saussure
b) Levi-Strauss
c) Pierce
d) Foucault
- (vi) Who among these is not a well known post-structuralist authors?
a) Derrida
b) Foucault
c) Judith Butler
d) Jacobson
- (vii) The product of deconstruction is to _____
a) analyse the subject clearly
b) destroy the word
c) discern the relationship between text and meaning
d) to study figures of speech
- (viii) Recognise who is the narrator of Plato's The Symposium?
a) Plato uses the perspective of Socrates to frame the narrative
b) Phaedrus is the narrator since it is his misgivings about the lack of respect given to Eros that sets off the symposium
c) The narrator is an unnamed acquaintance who relates to us the events which he witnessed during the symposium
d) The narrator is an omniscient voice who detachedly relates all the happenings surrounding Socrates during the symposium
- (ix) Name which of the following is true of Socrates and Agathon's initial exchange in The Symposium?
a) Agathon is disheartened that Socrates came into their gathering without invitation
b) Agathon's attraction towards Socrates is what prompts him to lead the gathering to debate on the merits of love
c) Agathon feels threatened by Socrates' genius and feels compelled to ask the slaves to lure him out to the garden and away from the gathering
d) Agathon praises Socrates highly and asks him to lie down beside him so that he too would be able to imbibe a certain kind of wisdom from him
- (x) Recall who in The Symposium defines love as a constant and yet failed pursuit towards completeness and wholeness?
a) Agathon
b) Aristophanes
c) Erixymachus
d) Phaedrus
- (xi) the popular line of Heidegger
a) "Do not fear for any circumstances"
b) "If I take death into life, acknowledge it"
c) "Future depends on youth"
d) "the existence of theories might fade"
- (xii) Cite which of the following is true of Reader-Response theory?
a) It challenged the assumptions of New Critics that any kind of criticism based on the putative emotional effects of literature on the reader will always involve a senseless mystification and will be unreliable
b) It challenges and dismantles the idea of the existence of an "implied reader" and an "actual reader", thereby claiming that all reading involves an engagement based on an identical subject position
c) It challenged the active participation of the reader and claimed that all a text requires is passive intake of information on the part of the reader and their receptiveness to the vision of the author
d) It posited reading as an act that is unmitigated by contractions, defamiliarisation, disillusion and expectations of the reader
- (xiii) Interpret the implications of the question asked by the student with reference to Stanley Fish's essay "Is There a Text in This Class?"

- a) The student's question prompts Fish to think how the text itself is an unstable entity with continuously fluctuating boundaries
- b) The student's question jeopardises the authority of Fish's colleague within the class by disrupting the existing power dynamics
- c) The dissonance between the student's intended question and the one perceived by the teacher allows Fish to theorise the fact that interpretation is an act that takes place within an existing system of knowledge and frame of reference
- d) The student's question and the resulting discomfort generated in the class, prompts Fish to think about how power operates and the fissures created by questions and challenges to its authority
- (xiv) Which of the following effectively dramatises the differences between "Implied Reader" and the "Actual Reader" according to Wolfgang Iser?
- a) The "Implied Reader" is one who is established by the text itself and is expected to respond in specific ways to the "response-inviting" structures of the text while the "Actual Reader" is one whose responses to the text are determined by their experiences, perceptions, and backgrounds
- b) The "Implied Reader" is made up of the immediate readers within an author's close circle of friends while the "Actual Reader" is one who approaches the text after its entry into the commercial sphere
- c) The "Implied Reader" is one who is able to understand the implications of the text in its contemporary society while the "Actual Reader" simply enjoys the text as an aesthetic product
- d) The "Actual Reader" is one who believes in the autotelic notion of the text and treats it as being self-contained and independent of author, genre, or historical context whereas the intended reader reads the texts through certain historical frameworks
- (xv) Calculate the reason why Stanley Fish disagrees with Meyer Abrams' postulations concerning indeterminacy and undecidability of texts.
- a) Abrams considers New Readers to have a tendency which detaches the text from the society in which it was created. Fish considers this to be untrue.
- b) Abrams disapproves of the New Reader's tendency to excessively politicise a text thereby destroying its aesthetic appeal which Fish thinks is not true at all
- c) Abrams believes that true criticism must be grounded with help of rules structures and must not be dependant on the emotional impacts created on the reader
- d) Abrams argues that by championing indeterminacy in texts the New Reader's encourage readers to let go of their ordinary realm of experience for a world where "no text can mean anything in particular", this is a misinterpretation according to Fish

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Describe how Phaedrus links Love with all that is good and beautiful in *The Symposium* (3)
3. Explain the main assumptions of post-structuralism (3)
4. Devise how Aristophanes uses myths and narrative strategies to entice listeners to argue with the idea of Love as an eternal journey towards completion? (3)

5. Discuss the main thematic elements of Chinua Achebe's "An Image of Africa: Racism in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. (3)

6. Analyse how in examining the relation between the reader and the text, Stanley Fish avoids falling into the trap of subjectivity (3)

OR

Is there a text in the class? Refer to Stanley Fish and give your opinion to this question critically. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Offer a critical consensus of the central argument of M.H. Abrams' "How to do Things with Texts." (5)

8. Racism in *Heart of Darkness* goes beyond the human and into the realm of topographical abstraction- Discuss with reference to Chinua Achebe's essay "An Image of Africa: Racism in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*." (5)

9. With reference to Stanley Fish's work analyse the role of institutional nesting in determining interpretive communities (5)

10. With reference to the Works of Wolfgang Iser and Stanley Fish compare the role of the reader in the act of interpretation proposed by both (5)

11. Frantz Fanon's Marxist heritage is unmissable in *The Wretched of the Earth*- Explicate with reference to the text. (5)

12. Discuss how according to Pausanias the Common Lovers act as a threat to the stability of the city states? (5)

OR

What is the purpose the essay "Structure Sign and Play"? Discuss the origin of poststructuralism through a reading of the essay. (5)

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