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**BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY****Term End Examination 2025-2026****Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2025****Course Name – Language and Linguistics****Course Code - MEN20501****(Semester II)**

Library
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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) Define the term 'Linguistics' as used in the context of scientific study.
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| a) The study of multiple foreign languages. | b) The scientific study of language and its structure. |
| c) The study of literary texts and criticism. | d) The art of persuasive public speaking. |
- (ii) Identify the specific property of human language that allows users to create new sentences that have never been spoken before.
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|------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Arbitrariness | b) Cultural Transmission |
| c) Productivity | d) Duality |
- (iii) Distinguish between Phonetics and Phonology based on their primary focus.
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|--|--|
| a) Phonetics studies sentence structure; Phonology studies word meaning. | b) Phonetics studies abstract sound patterns; Phonology studies physical sound production. |
| c) Phonetics studies physical characteristics of speech sounds; Phonology studies the abstract system of sounds. | d) Phonetics studies language acquisition; Phonology studies language change. |
- (iv) Explain the concept of 'Arbitrariness' in human language.
- | | |
|---|---|
| a) There is a natural connection between a linguistic form and its meaning. | b) There is no natural or iconic relationship between a word and its meaning. |
| c) Language is acquired genetically rather than culturally. | d) Language signals are sent in all directions but received directionally. |
- (v) Apply the rules of Syntax to select the sentence that follows the correct S-V-O (Subject-Verb-Object) structure.
- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| a) Chased the dog the cat. | b) The cat the dog chased. |
| c) The cat chased the dog. | d) Chased the cat the dog. |
- (vi) Define the term 'Idiolect' within the scope of sociolinguistics.

- a) The language variety characteristic of a specific social class.
 c) A language variety used exclusively for religious rituals.
- b) The unique linguistic system and speech pattern of an individual speaker.
 d) A simplified language used for trade between groups.
- (vii) Summarize the core hypothesis of 'Linguistic Relativity' (Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis).
 a) All languages share the same underlying universal grammar.
 c) Language development is entirely dependent on biological maturity.
- b) The language we speak influences our view of the world and our thought processes.
 d) Social class has no impact on the language variety spoken by an individual.
- (viii) Apply the concept of 'Code-Switching' to identify the phenomenon in this utterance: "I wanted to buy the dress, par woh bahut mehenga tha."
 a) The speaker is using a Pidgin language.
 c) The speaker is demonstrating a lack of vocabulary in both languages.
- b) The speaker is shifting between two languages within a single conversation.
 d) The speaker is using a regional dialect of English.
- (ix) Identify the primary focus of 'Discourse Analysis'.
 a) The study of isolated sounds and phonemes.
 c) The study of the historical evolution of words.
- b) The analysis of language use beyond the sentence level, including context and coherence.
 d) The measurement of brain activity during speech production.
- (x) Distinguish between a 'Pidgin' and a 'Creole'.
 a) A Pidgin is a native language; a Creole is a second language.
 c) A Pidgin has complex grammar; a Creole has no grammar.
- b) A Pidgin arises for contact/trade and has no native speakers; a Creole evolves from a Pidgin and becomes a native language.
 d) Pidgins are used in Europe; Creoles are used in Asia.
- (xi) Analyze the following interaction using Grice's Cooperative Principle: A: "Do you like my new hat?" B: "It's a nice color." Which Maxim is primarily being flouted to generate an implicature?
 a) Maxim of Quality (Truth)
 c) Maxim of Manner (Clarity)
- b) Maxim of Quantity (Information)
 d) Maxim of Relation (Relevance)
- (xii) Contrast the 'Deficit Hypothesis' (Bernstein) with the 'Difference Hypothesis' regarding non-standard dialects.
 a) Deficit argues non-standard dialects are linguistically inferior; Difference argues they are systematic and logical but socially stigmatized.
 c) Both hypotheses claim that non-standard dialects are superior to the standard.
- b) Deficit argues dialects are logical; Difference argues they are inferior.
 d) Both hypotheses focus exclusively on biological differences in the brain.
- (xiii) Evaluate the claim that 'Critical Discourse Analysis' (CDA) differs from traditional Discourse Analysis.
 a) CDA is less scientific because it involves politics.
 c) CDA focuses only on spoken language, while traditional DA focuses on written.
- b) CDA explicitly aims to reveal how language creates and maintains power structures and inequality.
 d) CDA uses quantitative methods only, while traditional DA uses qualitative.
- (xiv) Formulate a hypothesis predicting the outcome of long-term 'Language Contact' between a dominant superstrate language and a subordinate substrate language without social integration.
 a) The substrate language will inevitably replace the superstrate.
 c) The substrate speakers will likely undergo language shift, potentially leading to
- b) The superstrate language will borrow heavily from the substrate's grammar.
 d) Both languages will remain completely unchanged.

language death of the substrate.

(xv) Contrast the prediction of errors in 'Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis' (CAH) versus 'Error Analysis'.

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|--|--|
| a) CAH predicts errors based on L1-L2 differences; Error Analysis examines actual errors made by learners, many of which are not due to L1 transfer. | b) CAH analyzes actual errors; Error Analysis predicts them. |
| c) CAH is mentalist; Error Analysis is behaviorist. | d) Both theories claim L1 has no influence on L2. |

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Define the term 'Linguistics' and list two of its primary characteristics that classify it as a scientific discipline. (3)
3. Explain the design feature of 'Arbitrariness' in human language with an appropriate example. (3)
4. Illustrate the difference between 'Free' and 'Bound' morphemes using appropriate examples from English. (3)
5. Formulate a hypothesis for a study investigating the prestige of a local dialect versus a standard language. (3)
6. Evaluate the 'Critical Period Hypothesis' using evidence from cases of late language exposure (e.g., Genie). (3)

OR

Evaluate the 'Mentalist' (Innatist) critique of the Behaviourist view on language acquisition. (3)

Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Discuss the theoretical transition from New Criticism to Cultural Studies, focusing on how the treatment of "context" differs between the two paradigms. (5)
8. Apply the framework of Post-feminism to the analysis of a contemporary female protagonist who achieves success through consumerism. How does this lens explain her agency? (5)
9. Differentiate between the Structuralist view of language and the Poststructuralist view, specifically regarding the "stability of meaning." (5)
10. Examine the role of "narrative competence" in the intersection of Medicine and Literature. How does studying fiction make better doctors? (5)
11. Design a theoretical framework for a thesis that explores "Climate Fiction" (Cli-Fi) as a tool for "Ecological Awareness." What key concepts would constitute the backbone of this study? (5)
12. Assess the ethical implications of the "Posthuman" turn in literary studies. Does decentring the human risk diminishing the importance of human rights and social justice? (5)

OR

Critique the "Post-feminist" narrative of "choice." How might a researcher argue that this concept obscures structural inequality? (5)

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