

Correction of First Term Exam in Linguistics and Phonetics

Task 1: Choose the best option to complete the statements below _____ (5 pts)

1. _____ is the scientific study of language and its structure, including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics plus other fields like sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics ... etc.
a) Linguistics b) Macrolinguistics c) Microlinguistics d) Descriptive linguistics
2. Who defines language as an arbitrary system of signs? deals with language in use in contexts.
a) Syntax b) Morphology c) Semantics d) Pragmatics
3. Modern linguistics refers to the study of language as it exists at the present (current) time is called:
a) Diachrony b) Synchrony c) Langue d) Parole
4. The study of the forms of words and their combination, in particular inflected forms and derivations.
a) Syntax b) Morphology c) Semantics d) Pragmatics
5. Linguistic rules describe how sounds are pronounced in various positions. This is the of language analysis.
a) Phonological level b) Syntactic level c) Semantic level d) Pragmatic level

Task 2: Define the terms given below briefly in the space provided _____ (2 pts)

1. **Microlinguistics** is a branch of linguistics that studies the language systems including the study of grammar, syntax, and phonetics, semantics and pragmatics.
2. **Syntax** is a branch of microlinguistics that studies the forms of the sentence and its components, and how words and morphemes combine to form larger units such as phrases and sentences.
3. **Macrolinguistics** is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between language and other domains like sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, computational linguistics ... etc.
4. **Exhaustiveness** is one of the principles of linguistic description and analysis of language components in-depth and completely.

Task 3: Answers ONE of the following questions briefly _____ (3 pts)

1. What are the major objectives of linguistics?
2. From what have you studied, elaborate a comprehensive definition of language using your words.
3. Spot out the main differences between synchronic and diachronic linguistic studies.

Option: 1

Linguists describe any language scientifically, but their primary goal is to understand the nature of language in general by asking questions such as: What distinguishes human language from other animal communication systems? What features are common to all human languages?

The sound and linguistic, semantic systems of each language, language change and families...etc

Option: 2

For many linguists, a language is a human form of communication as a system of conventional spoken sounds and written symbols, which includes a limited number of sounds (phonetics), the sound system (phonology), the words (morphology), the sentences (syntax), the meaning (semantics), and the discourse context (language use in different situations) in a particular point of time in a given speech community, which changes over time.

Option: 3

Synchronic linguistic studies aim at describing a language at a specific point of time as in modern linguistics, often the present. In contrast, a diachronic approach, as in historical linguistics, considers the development and evolution of a language through history.

Task 4: State whether the following statements are True or False (correct the false ones) (6pts)

1. Phonology is the study of speech production. It includes the anatomy of speech organs. It also includes the articulation, classification and perception of speech sounds.
False, phonetics is the study of speech production. It includes the anatomy of speech organs. It also includes the articulation, classification and perception of speech sounds. **OR**
phonology is the study of speech sounds of a given language and their function within the sound system of that language as the rules governing a particular language. **(01 pt)**
2. Phonetics is the study of speech sounds of a given language and their function within the sound system of that language as the rules governing a particular language.
False, phonology is the study of speech sounds of a given language and their function within the sound system of that language as the rules governing a particular language. **OR**
Phonetics is the study of speech production, analysis and transcription. **(01 pt)**
3. In the human speech organs, the upper vocal tract comprises the lungs, the trachea and the mouth.
False, the upper vocal tract comprises the **larynx, pharynx**, the **oral cavity** and the **nasal cavity**.
Or the **lower** vocal tract comprises the **diaphragm, lungs**, and the **trachea**. **(01 pt)**
4. In speech production, the **labiodental** sounds are formed by using the lower **teeth** with lower **lip** /s, z/,
False, in speech production, the **labiodental** sounds are formed by using the **upper teeth** with lower **lip** /f, v/. **or**. **(01 pt)**
the **alveolar** sounds are formed by using **the tip of the tongue** with **alveolar ridge** /t, d, s, z, n, l, r/,
5. The **International Phonetic Alphabet** is used to represent the spoken sounds of all the languages accurately (i.e. English, French or Arabic... etc). **(1 pts)**
True
6. There are 24 vowel sounds OR phonemes in the English language.
False, there are **20 vowel sounds** OR phonemes in the English language. **(01 pt)**
Or there are **24 consonantal sounds** OR phonemes in the English language.

Task 5: a- Describe how consonant phonemes are articulated and provide one example (4pts)

Or b- Describe how vowel phonemes are articulated and provide one example (4pts)

Option: a

Linguists classify vowels according to four features (criteria): **tongue height** (high, mid, low),
tongue backness or position (front, central, back), **lip rounding** (rounded, unrounded), and
tenseness (tense, lax). **(3 pts)**

/e/ mid, front, unrounded, lax vowel. **(1 pts)**

Option: b

Consonants are usually classified according to **place of articulation** (the stricture made in the vocal tract, such as bilabial, dental, or velar... etc), the **manner of articulation** (the way in which the obstruction of the airflow occurs, as in stops, fricatives, approximants, and laterals) in addition to **voicing** (the vibration of the vocal cords that is voiced or voiceless) **(3 pts)**
/p/ voiceless, bilabial, stop or plosive consonant. **(1 pts)**