

## 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)**