

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2018

M.A. LINGUISTICS

[Field of Study Code : LINM (214)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

- Note :**
- (i) Read the instructions carefully. There are two Sections in the question paper : Section-A and Section-B. Attempt **eight** questions in total; **four** questions from Section-A and **four** questions from Section-B.
 - (ii) All the answers must be attempted on the answer-scripts only.
 - (iii) Marks are indicated against each question.

SECTION—A

(Marks : 40)

Answer **any four** questions

1. Consider the following data from Samoan, a Polynesian language spoken in Samoa and also in New Zealand, Hawaii, Fiji. (Adapted from Tom Payne) :

Samoan	Gloss
'Ua Lafi le pua `a	'The pig hid'
'Ua tutuli e tagata maile	'The people chased away the dogs'
'Ua pupu `e e le pusi `isumu	'The cat caught the mice'
'Ua pu `e e le tama le pusi	'The boy caught the cat'
'Ua fefefe teine	'The girls got scared'
'Ua fasi e tana le `isumu	'The boys killed the mouse'

Answer the following questions :

- (a) Translate from Samoan into English :

- (i) 'Ua fefe le pusi
- (ii) 'Ua tuli e `isumu le pusi

4

(b) Translate from English into Samoan :

- (i) 'The boys hid'
- (ii) 'The girl killed the pigs'

(c) What system or systems does Samoan employ for organizing grammatical relations? Give your evidence. 2

2. Match the following statement of **Column-1** with the appropriate term in **Column-2** : 10

	Column-1		Column-2
(a)	Marks the indirect object of a sentence	(i)	Compounding
(b)	The inability of aphasic patients to use linguistic rules	(ii)	Euphemism
(c)	Combination of first part of a word with the second part of another word	(iii)	Dative case
(d)	A word or phrase that is less direct than the taboo word it replaces and is considered to be more socially acceptable	(iv)	Telegraphic
(e)	The concatenation of two or more words to form a new word (e.g., couch potato, trade union delegate assembly)	(v)	Metaphor
(f)	The standard Korean script	(vi)	Agrammatism
(g)	Pitch differences that signal differences in meaning	(vii)	Lingua franca
(h)	The speech that is usually produced by children aged two and half to four years, often characterized by a lack of minor lexical categories and affixes	(viii)	Hangul
(i)	An implied comparison based on the perception of a similarity between distinct objects or actions	(ix)	Blending
(j)	A language that enables communication to take place when two or more groups of people come into contact who do not share a common language	(x)	Tone language

3. Figure out the pattern from the following words and write a rule/rules to explain the pattern : 5+5=10

- (a) Impossible, impractical, intolerable, irregular, inactive, illogical, incongruent, immovable, incorrect, inefficient
- (b) Unchristian, non-Christian, undo, unlockable, inadvertently, unhappy, disqualify, apolitical, demonetization

4. (a) Consider the following speech errors and replace the italicized word with the appropriate word : 5

- (i) The speaker received a standing *ovulation*.
- (ii) His *initiatives* were engraved on the cigarette case.
- (iii) A *visual* circle.
- (iv) That's *terrible*!
- (v) He *misfumbled* the ball.

- (b) What conclusion can be drawn from these speech errors about how words are related in the mental lexicon or in the mind of speakers? 5

5. Look at the following words from Malagasy (Keenan and Polinsky 1998 : 571) and explain the rule for forming words in **B**. Do you also find similar kind of strategy in your native language? Elucidate with suitable examples : 3+7=10

A		B	
/fotsy/	'white'	/fotsyfotsy/	'whitish'
/hafa/	'different'	/hafahafa/	'somewhat different'
/lo/	'rotten'	/lolo/	'somewhat rotten'

6. Are the various sign systems used by the deaf people rightly called natural languages or not? Do you think that the natural languages are formal languages? Give reasons for your answer. 5+5=10

7. Look at the following sentences and provide paraphrases if the sentence has ambiguous interpretations : 10

- (a) Juan bought some antique books and socks in town.
- (b) They are hunting dogs.
- (c) Who would you like to visit?
- (d) Do Americans call cushions what the British call pillows?
- (e) John introduced himself to everyone that Mary did.
- (f) Visiting relative is dreadful.
- (g) Yesterday, the red capped boy kicked the bucket and his mother watched helplessly.

SECTION—B

(Marks : 60)

Answer any four questions

8. What attitudes do you, or others, have about non-standard varieties spoken in your country? Which varieties are considered prestigious or undesirable? Why? Have you ever been criticised for the way you speak? Explain. 5+1+4+5=15
9. Reflect on your own second language learning experiences. What kind of classroom experiences did you have in terms of the methods that were used to teach you? What kind of situation is necessary for a person to acquire/learn a language? 8+7=15
10. Write notes on the following (any three) : 5×3=15
- (a) The innateness hypothesis
 - (b) The effects of gender on language
 - (c) Word-formation processes
 - (d) Figures of speech
 - (e) Language and advertising
 - (f) Saussurean paradox
 - (g) Word as a linguistic unit
11. What do we know when we know a language? What is the nature of cognitive system which we identify knowing a language? How is this system represented in the brain? 5+5+5=15
12. Have you seen or interacted with any person who has lost language after brain damage or stroke? Describe the nature of linguistic deficits that results when people suffer damage in different areas of the brain. 3+12=15
13. "All normal humans acquire language, whereas acquisition of even its barest rudiments is quite beyond the capacities of an otherwise intelligent ape" (Chomsky, 1972). Has this assertion been falsified by recent work with chimpanzees? What makes human language a unique system in compare with the other animal communication systems? 8+7=15
14. How is politeness expressed in English or in your native language? Discuss this question with particular reference to (a) greetings and farewells, (b) the use of names and titles and (c) the use of personal pronouns. 5+5+5=15
15. What distinction, if any, would you draw between a biological and cultural approach to the study of language? In what sense is linguistics a science? 12+3=15
