

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI

Second Semester (2022-23)

HSS F222: Linguistics

Comprehensive Examination (Closed Book)

Time: 3 Hours

22 May 2023

Max Marks: 80

Instruction: Read all the questions very carefully and answer them based on your readings, classroom interactions, and your own experiences.

Q.1 Differentiate between the followings and also give appropriate examples. (3x5=15)

- (i) Plosive (stop) and Fricative sounds
- (ii) Bilingualism and diglossia
- (iii) Pidgin and Creole
- (iv) Biological and Social gender
- (v) Instrumental and integrative motivation

Q.2 Write short notes (not more than 50 words each) on the followings and give suitable examples. (3x5=15)

- (a) Schema
- (b) Isogloss
- (c) Politeness
- (d) Prototype
- (e) Speech act

Q.3 Read the following sentences. They look grammatically possible but semantically odd. Using semantic features, and semantic roles explain the absurdities of these sentences. (10)

- (i) The cat scolded the boy.
- (ii) The house purchased a man.
- (iii) The pen wrote the letter.
- (iv) The man broke into pieces.
- (v) The bell rang the man.

Q.4 It has been observed that a large number of parents in India expose their children to the English language at a very early age and want them to learn English first. The parents even try to avoid using their family language in front of their growing children. This may be because of their ‘understanding’ of the socio-economic realities. However, when these children attain adulthood and come into contact with people from other languages background who express pride in their own language and identity they feel sorry for not having their own language and identity. Out of desperation many of them start learning their family language but they find it difficult to learn at this stage. How would you explain their difficulties in acquiring/learning their family language? Write your answer in about 400 words based on your reading, understanding and classroom interactions on first and second language acquisition/learning (20 Marks)

Q.5 Assume that you along with one of your friends are meeting with a group of foreigners. While talking to them you make a statement, “Even though we come from the same place we have different socio-cultural background”. How would you explain this statement through various elements/aspects of your language? Write your answer in about 400 words based on your reading, understanding and classroom interactions on ‘Social Variation in Language’ and ‘Language and Culture’. (20 Marks)
