Question Bank for Linguistics - 3ʳᵈ Year- First Semester

Pragmatics:

1. Define pragmatics and explain its significance in the study of language.

2. Discuss the difference between semantics and pragmatics.

3. Explain the cooperative principle proposed by Paul Grice and its relevance to pragmatic analysis.

4. Provide examples of the four maxims of conversation as outlined by Grice.

5. What is implicature, and how does it differ from literal meaning in communication?

6. Discuss the distinction between entailment and presupposition in pragmatic analysis.

7. Explain the concept of deixis and provide examples of deictic expressions.

8. Discuss the role of context in pragmatic interpretation and meaning derivation.

9. What are speech acts, and how do they relate to pragmatic theory?

10. Provide examples of different types of speech acts, including directives, declarations, and expressions.

11. Explain how politeness theory accounts for strategies used in communication to maintain positive social interactions.

12. Discuss the difference between positive and negative politeness strategies.

13. Describe the concept of face in politeness theory and its role in social interaction.

14. Provide examples of face-threatening acts and discuss how they can be mitigated in communication.

15. Explain the concept of implicature and how it relates to conversational implicature.

16. Provide examples of conversational implicature and explain how they arise in communication.

17. Discuss the role of presuppositions in understanding implicit meanings in discourse.

18. Explain the concept of indirect speech acts and provide examples.

19. Describe the relationship between culture and pragmatic norms in communication.

20. Provide examples of cultural differences in pragmatic conventions, such as turn-taking and politeness.

21. Discuss the role of context in disambiguating meaning in language use.

22. Explain the phenomenon of conversational repair and its importance in maintaining successful communication.

23. Provide examples of conversational repair strategies, such as repetition, clarification requests, and self-repair.

24. Describe the concept of implicature and how it relates to conversational implicature.

25. Discuss the role of implicature in resolving ambiguity and inferring implicit meanings in discourse.

26. Define pragmatics and describe its relationship with semantics and syntax.

27. Discuss the principles of Gricean maxims and their relevance to conversational implicature.

28. Provide examples of speech acts such as requests, promises, apologies, and compliments.

29. Explain the concept of deixis and discuss its role in language use.

30. Analyze conversational exchanges to identify instances of implicature, presupposition, and inference.

31. How does pragmatics contribute to our understanding of language beyond the literal meaning of words and sentences?

Sociolinguistics: 32. Define sociolinguistics and explain its focus on language variation and social factors.

33. Discuss the difference between overt and covert prestige in sociolinguistic research.

34. Provide examples of linguistic variables and discuss their correlation with social factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, and social class.

35. Explain the concept of code-switching and discuss its social and communicative functions.

36. Analyze a sociolinguistic study that investigates language variation in a specific community or context.

37. How does sociolinguistics contribute to our understanding of language variation and change in society?

Psycholinguistics: 38. Define psycholinguistics and explain its focus on the cognitive processes underlying language use and comprehension.

39. Describe the stages of language production, including lexical access, syntactic planning, and articulation.

40. Discuss the difference between bottom-up and top-down processing in language comprehension.

41. Provide examples of experimental techniques used in psycholinguistic research, such as eye-tracking, reaction time measures, and neuroimaging.

42. Explain the concept of language acquisition and discuss theories of first language acquisition, including nativist, empiricist, and interactionist perspectives.

43. How does psycholinguistics contribute to our understanding of language processing and development?

Computational Linguistics: 44. Define computational linguistics and describe its focus on using computers to analyze and generate natural language.

45. Explain the difference between rule-based and statistical approaches to natural language processing.

46. Provide examples of applications of computational linguistics, such as machine translation, speech recognition, and text summarization.

47. Discuss the challenges of ambiguity, variability, and context in natural language understanding by computers.

48. Analyze a computational linguistic system or algorithm and discuss its strengths and limitations.

49. How does computational linguistics contribute to advances in artificial intelligence and human-computer interaction?

Language Acquisition: 50. Define language acquisition and describe the stages of development in a child's language acquisition process.

51. Discuss the difference between nativist and empiricist theories of language acquisition.

52. Provide examples of universal linguistic features observed in language acquisition across different languages and cultures.

53. Explain the concept of critical periods in language acquisition and its implications for second language learning.

54. Analyze a case study or experiment in child language acquisition research.

55. How does the study of language acquisition inform our understanding of the human capacity for language?

Historical Linguistics: 56. Define historical linguistics and explain its focus on studying language change over time.

57. Discuss methods used in historical linguistics, such as comparative reconstruction, etymology, and dialectology.

58. Provide examples of sound changes, grammatical changes, and lexical changes observed in the historical evolution of languages.

59. Explain the concept of language families and how they are established through comparative linguistic analysis.

60. Analyze a linguistic change or linguistic feature in the historical development of a specific language.

61. How does historical linguistics contribute to our understanding of language change and linguistic diversity?

Language Typology: 62. Define language typology and describe its focus on identifying and classifying linguistic universals and language structures.

63. Discuss the difference between typological universals, implicational universals, and statistical universals.

64. Provide examples of language typology features such as word order, case marking, and verb morphology.

65. Explain the concept of linguistic markedness and discuss its relevance to language typology.

66. Analyze a cross-linguistic study or survey that explores language typology features.

67. How does language typology contribute to our understanding of language diversity and linguistic universals?

Language Contact: 68. Define language contact and describe its effects on language change and language structure.

69. Discuss the outcomes of language contact, including borrowing, pidginization, and creolization.

70. Provide examples of language contact situations, such as colonial contact, trade contact, and migration.

71. Explain the difference between lexical borrowing, structural borrowing, and semantic borrowing.

72. Analyze a case study of language contact and its effects on the languages involved.

73. How does language contact contribute to language diversity and linguistic change?

Language Variation: 74. Define language variation and describe its forms, including regional variation, social variation, and stylistic variation.

75. Discuss the difference between variationist sociolinguistics and laboratory-based studies of language variation.

76. Provide examples of linguistic variables and discuss their correlation with social factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, and social class.

77. Explain the concept of linguistic accommodation and discuss its role in communication and identity negotiation.

78. Analyze a sociolinguistic study that investigates language variation in a specific community or context.

79. How does the study of language variation contribute to our understanding of language change and social identity?

Language Change: 80. Define language change and describe its types, including phonological change, grammatical change, and lexical change.

81. Discuss the mechanisms of language change, including sound change, analogy, borrowing, and grammaticalization.

82. Provide examples of historical sound changes, such as the Great Vowel Shift in English or the loss of case marking in English.

83. Explain the concept of linguistic reconstruction and its role in uncovering proto-languages and language families.

84. Analyze a case study of language change in the historical development of a specific language.

85. How does the study of language change contribute to our understanding of language evolution and diversity?

Language Documentation: 86. Define language documentation and describe its goals, methods, and ethical considerations.

87. Discuss the importance of documenting endangered languages for preserving linguistic diversity and cultural heritage.

88. Provide examples of language documentation projects and their outcomes.

89. Explain the role of technology in language documentation, including audiovisual recording, digital archiving, and community-based documentation.

90. Analyze the linguistic and cultural significance of language documentation for endangered language communities.

91. How does language documentation contribute to our understanding of linguistic diversity and language preservation?

Language Revitalization: 92. Define language revitalization and describe its goals, strategies, and challenges.

93. Discuss the importance of community involvement and empowerment in language revitalization efforts.

94. Provide examples of successful language revitalization projects and their impact on language communities.

95. Explain the role of education, media, and technology in language revitalization initiatives.

96. Analyze the socio-political context of language revitalization and its implications for linguistic rights and social justice.

97. How does language revitalization contribute to the maintenance of linguistic diversity and cultural heritage?

Language Policy: 98. Define language policy and describe its goals, types, and implementation strategies.

99. Discuss the role of language policy in promoting or suppressing linguistic diversity and minority languages.

100. Provide examples of language policy in education, government, and public institutions.