

DINAKRUSHNA COLLEGE, JALESWAR

Department of English

QUESTION BANK

Paper II — Core II / Major II: Introduction to Language and Linguistics

Question Distribution Summary Matrix

Unit / Chapter	Fill in Blanks (1 Mark)	Short Questions (2 Marks)	Medium Questions (5 Marks)	Long Questions (8 Marks)	Total
Unit-I: Language and its Nature	10	10	10	5	35
Unit-II: Linguistics and Scope	10	10	10	5	35
Unit-III: Core Levels of Linguistics	10	10	10	5	35
Unit-IV: Text and Discourse	10	10	10	5	35
Total Prepared	40	40	40	20	140

Unit-I: Language and its Nature

Learning Outcome: The learners are able to explain the foundational concepts, universal aspects, and inherent nature of human language, differentiating it clearly from animal communication models and exploring its intersections with artificial systems.

Detailed Syllabus: *Language and its aspects; language and its nature. Nature and features of human language; language and human communication, differences between human and animal communication. Artificial Intelligence and human language.*

I. Fill in the Blanks (1 Mark each)

1. The system of arbitrary vocal symbols used by humans to communicate and interact is broadly defined as _____.
2. Human language exhibits the property of _____, allowing users to talk about things not present in the immediate spatial or temporal environment.
3. Unlike animal calls, human language can generate infinitely many novel utterances from a finite set of units, a feature known as _____.
4. The relationship between a linguistic signifier and its signified meaning is generally _____ because there is no natural or inherent connection.
5. Linguistic _____ refers to the feature where a single word or sentence can have more than one grammatical interpretation or semantic meaning.
6. Bee-dancing and bird songs are classical examples of _____ communication systems as opposed to open human languages.
7. The study of natural language processing and computer systems that mimic human text or speech generation falls under the domain of _____ Intelligence.
8. Human language is culturally transmitted, meaning it is passed down through learning rather than entirely through direct biological _____.

9. The unique structural property where large numbers of meaningful units are built out of a small number of meaningless sounds is called _____ of patterning.
10. Linguistic _____ refers to the phenomenon where language changes over time across different regions and generations.

II. Short Answer Questions (2 Marks each)

1. Define language as an arbitrary vocal system.
2. What is meant by 'displacement' as a defining characteristic of human language?
3. State any two fundamental differences between human and animal communication systems.
4. What does Ferdinand de Saussure mean by the 'arbitrary nature' of language?
5. Briefly explain the feature of 'creativity' or 'productivity' in human speech.
6. How does cultural transmission influence a child's acquisition of their native language?
7. What is the difference between an organic human language and an artificial system like programming language?
8. Define 'duality of patterning' with an appropriate example.
9. In what way does Artificial Intelligence (AI) attempt to simulate human language?
10. Mention two core biological adaptations that enable humans to produce complex vocal speech.

III. Medium Answer Questions (5 Marks each)

1. Examine the core features of human language that distinguish it as a uniquely advanced communication system.
2. Discuss the structural and semantic limitations of animal communication using specific case studies (e.g., honeybee waggle dance).
3. Analyze the impact and role of Artificial Intelligence on the evolution and understanding of human language mechanics.
4. Explain the concept of linguistic arbitrariness and provide exceptions such as onomatopoeia.
5. Describe the dual structure of language, focusing on how phonemes assemble to form morphemes and sentences.
6. Discuss how human language functions both as an individual cognitive system and a social tool.
7. Explain what is meant by 'reflexivity' or 'metalinguistic' capacity in human speech.
8. Outline how large language models (LLMs) differ from a child's biological path to language learning.
9. Elaborate on how cultural factors interact with the inherent structural constraints of natural languages.
10. Examine the phenomenon of systemic variation and internal rules across human vernaculars.

IV. Long Answer Questions (8 Marks each)

1. Provide a comprehensive essay on the nature, definition, and universal structural aspects of human language.
2. Critically analyze the structural distinctions between human language and animal communication, utilizing Charles Hockett's design features as a framework.
3. Evaluate the intersections of Artificial Intelligence and human linguistics, focusing on whether machine intelligence can truly master human semantic depth.
4. Discuss the relationship between language, human thought, and society, examining how communication acts as the ultimate foundation of human culture.
5. Elaborate on the evolutionary origins of human speech, highlighting physiological, cognitive, and social milestones that enabled full linguistic capability.

Unit-II: Linguistics and Scope

Learning Outcome: The students understand the formal development and history of linguistic studies, its academic contributions to surrounding fields of human inquiry, and its versatile career opportunities.

Detailed Syllabus: *Linguistics and Language. What is linguistics; development and history of linguistic studies. Contribution of linguistics to other fields of human inquiry. Linguistics for jobs.*

I. Fill in the Blanks (1 Mark each)

1. The formal, scientific study of language and its structural components is known as _____.
2. A linguist who studies how language evolves, transforms, and diverges over a historical timeline takes a _____ approach.
3. Linguistic analysis that focuses strictly on a language at a specific, frozen single point in time is described as _____.
4. The Swiss scholar often widely celebrated as the father of modern structural linguistics is Ferdinand de _____.
5. The field of _____ applies linguistic theories to practical issues like language teaching, literacy, and forensic evidence.
6. Linguistics contributes significantly to the field of _____ by helping developers design algorithms for speech recognition and natural language processing.
7. When linguistics intersects with psychology to examine how the human mind stores and processes language, it is called _____.
8. The study of how language varies across different social groups, classes, and socio-cultural structures is called _____.
9. Linguistics graduates working in the tech industry to curate and classify data sets often hold titles as _____ Linguists.
10. Linguistic studies that assist speech-language pathologists in treating speech disorders belong to the clinical branch of _____.

II. Short Answer Questions (2 Marks each)

1. What makes the study of language 'scientific' in the discipline of linguistics?
2. Differentiate between synchronic and diachronic methods of language study.
3. Name two major historical milestones or schools of thought in the development of modern linguistics.
4. State how linguistics contributes directly to the discipline of Anthropology.
5. What is the focus of psycholinguistics?
6. Briefly describe the field of sociolinguistics.
7. Mention two specific job industries or career paths open to corporate or clinical linguists.
8. What is the difference between prescriptive grammar and descriptive linguistics?
9. How does linguistics assist professionals working in computational text translation?
10. Define the relationship between 'competence' and 'performance' as popularized by Noam Chomsky.

III. Medium Answer Questions (5 Marks each)

1. Trace the historical development of linguistics from traditional grammar approaches to the birth of structuralism.

2. Discuss the interdisciplinary contributions of linguistics to cognitive sciences and modern psychology.
3. Elaborate on the practical vocational applications of a degree in linguistics, highlighting 'Linguistics for jobs'.
4. Examine how linguistics provides valuable analytical frameworks to literary criticism and stylistic studies.
5. Explain the difference between Ferdinand de Saussure's concepts of 'langue' and 'parole'.
6. Discuss how structural linguistics aids in the documentation and revitalization of endangered Indigenous languages.
7. Analyze the role of forensic linguistics in corporate legal proceedings and audio/text verification.
8. Explain why descriptive analysis is highly preferred over prescriptive rules in scientific linguistics.
9. Detail the contributions of computational linguistics to everyday tools like predictive text and virtual voice assistants.
10. Discuss how educational institutions leverage linguistic findings to improve second-language pedagogy.

IV. Long Answer Questions (8 Marks each)

1. Write a comprehensive essay defining linguistics, detailing its core methodology, and outlining its primary sub-branches.
2. Discuss the history and evolution of linguistic studies, highlighting the major shifts from historical philology to structuralism and the Chomskyan generative revolution.
3. Examine the profound contributions of linguistic inquiry to other fields of human knowledge, particularly sociology, psychology, computer science, and legal frameworks.
4. Elaborate on the diverse commercial, technological, and medical career landscapes available under the banner of 'Linguistics for jobs' in the 21st century.
5. Critically analyze the theoretical dichotomies introduced by Ferdinand de Saussure and evaluate how they revolutionized modern structural analysis.

Unit-III: Core Levels of Linguistics

Learning Outcome: The learners can accurately describe the foundational levels of linguistic organization including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

Detailed Syllabus: *Phonetics and phonology; representation. IPA. Syntax and Semantics. Morphology.*

I. Fill in the Blanks (1 Mark each)

1. The physical production, transmission, and acoustic reception of speech sounds is studied under _____.
2. The International Phonetic Association developed a standardized notation system known as the _____ chart.
3. The smallest abstract functional unit of sound in a specific language that can distinguish one word from another is a _____.
4. The branch of linguistics that studies the internal structural composition and formation of words is called _____.
5. The absolute smallest meaningful unit or grammatical element within a word structure is termed a _____.
6. Affixes that alter the grammatical category or fundamental meaning of a base word to create new words are called _____ morphemes.
7. The architectural level of linguistics that deals with the formal rules for arranging words into well-formed sentences is _____.
8. The systematic study of literal meaning expressed through words, phrases, and sentences is known as _____.
9. A structural variation of a single phone or sound that does not alter word meaning is termed an _____.

10. Inflectional morphemes, such as plural suffixes, change the grammatical form of a word without altering its core lexical ____.

II. Short Answer Questions (2 Marks each)

1. Distinguish briefly between Phonetics and Phonology.
2. What is the main purpose of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)?
3. Define a morpheme with one clear example.
4. Differentiate between free morphemes and bound morphemes.
5. What is syntax?
6. Define semantics as a level of linguistic analysis.
7. What is an allomorph? Provide an example.
8. Explain the difference between derivational and inflectional morphology.
9. What does a tree diagram represent in syntactic analysis?
10. What is the difference between a sound's place of articulation and its manner of articulation?

III. Medium Answer Questions (5 Marks each)

1. Explain the classification of English consonant sounds based on voice, place, and manner of articulation.
2. Discuss the absolute necessity of a standardized system like the IPA for phonetic transcription and field research.
3. Analyze the distinction between deep structure and surface structure in syntactic theories.
4. Describe the various word-formation processes in morphology, including compounding, blending, and clipping.
5. Discuss the scope of lexical semantics versus structural or truth-conditional semantics.
6. Examine how phonological rules operate within connected speech (e.g., assimilation, elision).
7. Detail how constituent analysis helps linguists parse complex structural sentence ambiguities.
8. Outline the properties of bound roots and functional grammatical morphemes within English syntax.
9. Explain the concepts of synonymy, antonymy, and polysemy within semantic networks.
10. Discuss the psychological and anatomical systems involved in the articulatory production of human speech.

IV. Long Answer Questions (8 Marks each)

1. Provide a detailed, systematic account of the core vertical levels of linguistic analysis, moving sequentially from phonemes to sentence semantics.
2. Discuss phonetics and phonology comprehensively, emphasizing the mechanisms of speech sound production and their subsequent transcription via the IPA.
3. Elaborate on the structural properties of words, providing a thorough comparative analysis of morphological processes across global language groups.
4. Write a comprehensive essay detailing syntactic systems, focusing on how structural sentence patterns and rules generate grammatical clarity.
5. Analyze the multi-layered realm of semantics, exploring how human language constructs, encodes, and transmits literal and conceptual meaning.

Unit-IV: Text and Discourse

Learning Outcome: The students appreciate text and discourse structures, analyzing contextual speech interactions, connected utterances, and the cognitive learning mechanics behind human language processing.

Detailed Syllabus: *What is text and discourse. Nature of utterances and connected texts. Syntax and discourse. Language and learning mechanics.*

I. Fill in the Blanks (1 Mark each)

1. The study of language units larger than a single isolated sentence, encompassing connected text and speech context, is called _____ analysis.
2. A spoken or written token of language produced by a speaker in a specific situational context is called an _____.
3. The formal grammatical and structural links that tie sentences together to make a unified text are referred to as _____.
4. The conceptual, underlying semantic connection that renders a text logical, relevant, and meaningful is called _____.
5. The structural intersection mapping how sentence structures shift based on contextual communication flow is called syntax-_____ interface.
6. Linguistic exchanges occurring in natural, spontaneous conversations are often mapped out through _____ analysis.
7. The structural device of starting sentences with old information before introducing new elements is the Given-_____ principle.
8. In language learning mechanics, the innate biological faculty or template enabling human language acquisition is known as the LAD or Language Acquisition _____.
9. The psychological hypothesis stating there is an ideal window of childhood for effortless natural language learning is the Critical _____ Hypothesis.
10. The specific discourse practice where speakers manage conversational flow by deciding who speaks next is called _____-taking.

II. Short Answer Questions (2 Marks each)

1. Define the basic difference between a raw text and an interactive discourse.
2. What is an utterance, and how does it differ from a grammatical sentence?
3. Distinguish between cohesion and coherence in textual formatting.
4. What is meant by 'connected text' or 'connected speech'?
5. How does syntax interface with discourse context during communication?
6. Define the Language Acquisition Device (LAD) concept popularized by Chomsky.
7. What is the core premise of the Critical Period Hypothesis in learning mechanics?
8. State two primary mechanisms involved in adult second-language learning versus child language acquisition.
9. What are conversational implicatures?
10. What does 'turn-taking' signify in structural dialogue dynamics?

III. Medium Answer Questions (5 Marks each)

1. Examine the core differences between written text analysis and spoken discourse analysis.
2. Discuss the primary cohesive devices (such as anaphora, cataphora, and lexical reiteration) that unify a text.
3. Analyze how the arrangement of syntax is dynamically driven by communicative discourse constraints.

4. Elaborate on the major behavioral, cognitive, and nativist theories explaining child language learning mechanics.
5. Explain how context determines the pragmatic interpretation of ambiguous or elliptical utterances.
6. Discuss the structure and rules of conversational turn-taking as mapped in interactional sociolinguistics.
7. Describe the impact of connected speech processes like liaison and juncture on human language parsing.
8. Examine how speech act theory explains the performative force of everyday utterances.
9. Contrast the biological mechanics of first language acquisition (L1) with the deliberate mechanics of second language learning (L2).
10. Discuss how macro-structures in discourse define specific text genres (e.g., narrative layouts vs. academic reports).

IV. Long Answer Questions (8 Marks each)

1. Write a detailed essay defining text and discourse analysis, detailing their structural parameters, methodologies, and social relevance.
2. Provide a comprehensive comparative analysis of cohesion and coherence, demonstrating how they work in unison to establish meaning across connected texts.
3. Discuss the relationship between syntax and discourse, exploring how grammatical architectures alter to accommodate real-time information focus.
4. Critically evaluate the psychological and neurological mechanics of language learning, contrasting the nativist view with interactionist cognitive models.
5. Elaborate on the structural and functional analysis of natural spoken conversation, detailing turn-taking systems, adjacency pairs, and discourse markers.