

(8 pages)

Reg. No. :

Code No. : 5421

Sub. Code : WEHM 33

M.A. (CBCS) DEGREE EXAMINATION,
NOVEMBER 2024.

Third Semester

English — Core

LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS

(For those who joined in July 2023 onwards)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (15 × 1 = 15 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

Choose the correct answer :

1. Which of the following is an example of a voiceless bilabial plosive?
(a) /b/ (b) /p/
(c) /m/ (d) /f/
2. What is the term for the smallest unit of sound that can distinguish meaning in a language?
(a) Morpheme (b) Syllable
(c) Phoneme (d) Grapheme

3. Which of the following pairs are minimal pairs in English?
(a) cat - bat (b) pen - pens
(c) table - tables (d) happy - happier
4. Which of the following is an example of a bound morpheme?
(a) book (b) -s(plural)
(c) run (d) cat
5. The morpheme "un+" in the word "undo" is an example of
(a) A derivational morpheme
(b) An inflectional morpheme
(c) A bound morpheme
(d) A free morpheme
6. Which of the following is an example of a free morpheme?
(a) -ing (b) -er
(c) jump (d) -s
7. What type of grammar focuses on the rules and norms of language usage, often codified in prescriptive rules?
(a) Descriptive grammar
(b) Generative grammar
(c) Traditional grammar
(d) Structural grammar

Page 2

Code No. : 5421



8. What is the primary focus of the descriptive approach to grammar?
- (a) Prescribing correct language usage
 - (b) Analyzing language according to historical norms
 - (c) Describing and analyzing how language is used in practice
 - (d) Generating syntactic rules
9. Which of the following approaches to grammar is characterised by analyzing sentences based on their constituent structures?
- (a) Traditional grammar
 - (b) Immediate constituent analysis
 - (c) Descriptive approach
 - (d) Structural analysis
10. Which of the following is a key concept in generative grammar?
- (a) Surface structure
 - (b) Lexical semantics
 - (c) Phonological rules
 - (d) Historical linguistics
11. Which of the following is a property of grammar in generative theory?
- (a) Recursion
 - (b) Historical linguistics
 - (c) Morphological inflection
 - (d) Phonetic transcription

Page 3

Code No. : 5421

12. Which term describes ambiguity that arises when a sentence can be parsed in more than one way due to its structure?
- (a) Semantic ambiguity
 - (b) Structural ambiguity
 - (c) Phonological ambiguity
 - (d) Pragmatic ambiguity
13. What is the primary focus of conceptual meaning in semantics?
- (a) The emotional associations of a word
 - (b) The social context in which a word is used
 - (c) The social context in which a word is used
 - (d) The frequency of a word's usage
14. Which concept refers to the word that has multiple meanings that are related by extension from a single underlying sense?
- (a) Homonymy
 - (b) Homophony
 - (c) Polysemy
 - (d) Synonymy
15. Which of the following pairs of words illustrates antonym?
- (a) Cat and dog
 - (b) Good and bad
 - (c) Chair and table
 - (d) Flower and tree

Page 4

Code No. : 5421

[P.T.O]



PART B — (5 × 4 = 20 marks)

Answer ALL questions, choosing either (a) or (b).
Each answer should not exceed 250 words.

16. (a) Explain the different types of phonetics.

Or

- (b) Explore the concept of minimal pairs and their significance in phonological analysis. How do minimal pairs help distinguish phonemes within a language?

17. (a) Discuss the distinction between free morphemes and bound morphemes. How do these types of morphemes contribute to the formation of words in English? Provide examples to illustrate your points.

Or

- (b) Analyse the role of allomorphs in morphological analysis. How do allomorphs function within the structure of a language, and what are some examples of allomorphy in English.

18. (a) Compare and contrast traditional grammar and modern descriptive grammar. How do these approaches differ in their treatment of grammatical rules and language use?

Or

Page 5

Code No. : 5421

- (b) Analyse the role of parts of speech in grammatical analysis. How do the categories of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs contribute to sentence structure and meaning?

19. (a) Discuss the significance of deep structure and surface structure in generative grammar. How do these concepts contribute to our understanding of sentence formation and syntactic analysis?

Or

- (b) Examine the role of structural ambiguity in syntax. How does structural ambiguity arise, and what are its implications for syntactic theory and sentence interpretation?

20. (a) Discuss the distinction between conceptual meaning and associative meaning in semantics. How do these types of meanings contribute to our understanding of word meanings and usage?

Or

- (b) Analyse the role of semantic features in defining word meanings. How do these features contribute to the classification and differentiation of lexical items?

Page 6

Code No. : 5421



PART C — (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

Answer ALL questions, choosing either (a) or (b)
Each answer should not exceed 600 words.

21. (a) Explain the classification of consonants.

Or

- (b) Evaluate the impact of sociolects and dialects on language's phonological and semantic aspects. How do regional and social variations affect language structure and meaning?

22. (a) Analyse the role of morphological rules in shaping the structure of complex words. How do processes like affixation and compounding contribute to the morphological system of a language?

Or

- (b) Discuss the differences between affixation and compounding as morphological processes. How do these processes differ in terms of their impact on word meaning and structure?

23. (a) Explore the perspective approach to grammar. How does this approach differ from prescriptive and descriptive grammar in its focus on language use?

Or

Page 7

Code No. : 5421

- (b) Evaluate the concept of labeled and bracketed sentences in grammatical analysis. How do these methods contribute to the understanding of syntactic structures?

24. (a) Analyse the use of phrase structure rules in syntactic theory. How do these rules help in representing the hierarchical organization of sentences?

Or

- (b) Explore the concept of recursion in grammar. How does recursion enable the generation of complex sentences and what are its implications for syntactic theory?

25. (a) Explore the different types of lexical relations such as synonymy, antonymy, and hyponymy. How do these relations enhance our understanding of word meanings and their interconnections?

Or

- (b) Evaluate the impact of polysemy on lexical semantics. How does polysemy influence the interpretation and usage of words in various contexts?

Page 8

Code No. : 5421

