

本試題是否可以使用計算機：可使用，不可使用（請命題老師勾選）

考試日期：0301，節次：4

I. Define the following terms and give examples to illustrate. (30%)

1. Accidental lexical gaps vs. impossible words
2. Heads and complements
3. The principle of compositionality
4. Sense vs. reference
5. Phonotactic constraints
6. Phonemic vs. phonetic representations of speech sounds

II. Choose the best answer from the choices provided (20%)

1. Which of the following is NOT an example of structural ambiguity?
 - a. This medicine will make you smart ("smart" meaning either "clever" or "to cause a stinging pain.")
 - b. Synthetic buffalo hides ("hide" may mean either "animal skin" or "to keep out of sight.")
 - c. It's unlockable ("unlockable" meaning either "unable to be locked" or "able to be unlocked")
2. Which of the following sentences is closest or resembles its deep structure?
 - a. Will Max like the party?
 - b. What will Max like?
 - c. Max will like what?
 - d. What do you think Max will like?
3. Which of the following is NOT considered true in first language acquisition?
 - a. It is not necessary to take a course in order to learn one's mother tongue.
 - b. German is the most difficult first language to acquire.
 - c. People with normal development acquire their first language in a short time.
 - d. Females acquire their first language as easily as males.
4. Which part of the brain has control over language function?
 - a. cerebral cortex
 - b. corpus callosum
 - c. white matter
 - d. cerebellum

(背面仍有題目,請繼續作答)

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III. Discuss the issues introduced in each of the following questions (50% in total). It is far more important for you to show your reasoning based upon available evidence than to give correct answers, if any.

1. Patients of Broca's aphasia (the loss of some forms of language abilities) usually have difficulties producing speech but have little problem understanding speech. Patients of Wernicke's aphasia, on the other hand, are fluent in speech but have difficulties comprehending speech and often make lexical errors. It thus seems that the Broca's area and the Wernicke's area, two of the modular areas in the brain, may have their respective language functions. Based on the descriptions of the symptoms given above as a result of damages made to each of the two areas, come up with a **processing sequence** when one speaks a word just heard. It would involve the primary auditory cortex (a brain area for perceiving and processing speech signals) and primary motor cortex (another brain area for producing speech), in addition to the two aforesaid areas. Give your reasons why you should come up with such a sequence. (15%)
2. Universal Grammar refers to an inborn ability to acquire language. What are the reasons that have motivated linguists to believe that such ability should be inborn for all human beings (15%)?
3. Syllables in Mandarin Chinese are very simple, consisting of mainly an onset plus the nucleus vowel, sometimes followed by a nasal coda. This results in a small inventory of syllables: there are only a bit more than 400 syllables in Chinese and, even when tones are considered, there are only around 1,300 possible syllables. What is more, a Chinese morpheme usually consists of a single syllable. In English, however, while a syllable can be as complex as having three consonants preceding the nucleus vowel and four following it, an English morpheme can also be multi-syllabic. This means, in theory, each English word can be represented by a unique combination of phonemes. Given this backdrop, discuss the issues raised in the following questions in terms of learning new words.
 - a. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a small syllable repertoire for native speakers of Chinese (in terms of learning new words)? And what are the advantages and disadvantages of having a unique combination for each word for native speakers of English (10%)?
 - b. For Chinese speakers learning English as a foreign language, what potential learning problems may arise due to the phonological contrasts at the level of syllable structures between Chinese and English (10%)?