

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, 2013

M.Phil./Ph.D.

LINGUISTICS

[Field of Study Code : LINP (134)]

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

*All questions carry equal marks*Answer **any ten** questions

1. What are grammatical categories? Is the dichotomy between the 'noun' and the 'verb' universally attested? Give suitable examples to justify your answer.
2. In English language, there is evidence for a difference in the syntax of 'main verbs' and 'auxiliaries'. What are they and how can the difference be accounted for?
3. Write descriptive notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Isolating, agglutinating and inflecting languages
 - (b) Autosegmental phonology
 - (c) Tone languages
 - (d) Endangered languages
4. Discuss first language acquisition with respect to any *three* of the following :
 - (a) Theories
 - (b) Milestones
 - (c) Tools and instruments for data elicitation
 - (d) Disorders
5. What are the main issues in sociolinguistics? What are W. Labov's major methodological contributions to language studies?
6. What is the relationship between language and politics? Can there be strict boundaries between languages? How do languages get associated with distinct communities, regions and nations?

7. Write an essay on the diversity of languages in South Asia keeping in view their classification into 'language families' and their geographical contexts. What are the linguistic features on the basis of which South Asia as a linguistic area can be identified?

8. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Metaphor and metonymy
 - (b) Biological foundations of language
 - (c) Structuralism and semiotics
 - (d) Cognitive linguistics

9. Explain the terms 'first language', 'second language' and 'foreign language' in the context of learning and teaching of languages in a multilingual context.

10. Write an essay on 'Language, Mind and Brain' with reference to the relevant theories, clinical studies and neurocognitive impediments in communication.

11. What are meant by 'speech acts'? Discuss the priority given to the 'use' of language over its structure by the philosophers Bakhtin, Wittgenstein, Austin and Searle.

12. What are meaning relations? How are they different from logical relations?

13. Though the human language emerges from a specific neuronal base, in the social world humans encounter linguistic and discursive structures that are culturally and politically produced and maintained. Discuss how the post-structuralist philosophers address this issue and propose the modes of overcoming the structural closures.

14. Write short notes on any *two* of the following :
 - (a) Neuronal plasticity
 - (b) Arbitrariness of the linguistic sign
 - (c) Iconicity in language
 - (d) Sphoṭa and Apōha theories of meaning

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