

Test Bank

Chapter 1 – The Territory

Multiple Choice:

1. Which is considered by some sociolinguist to be the organizing principle of language?
 - a. Syntax
 - b. Pragmatics
 - c. Morphology
 - d. Phonology
2. _____ is a verbal means of communicating that requires very precise neuromuscular coordination.
 - a. Phonology
 - b. Language
 - c. Speech
 - d. Communication
3. When you are having an in-person conversation, approximately _____ of the information is carried by nonspeech means.
 - a. 10%
 - b. 30%
 - c. 60%
 - d. 80%
4. _____ is a socially shared code or conventional system for representing concepts through the use of arbitrary symbols and rule-governed combinations of those symbols.
 - a. Language
 - b. Speech
 - c. Communication
 - d. Bilingualism
5. Approximately _____ people speak English as a second language.
 - a. 1 million
 - b. 10 million
 - c. 1 billion
 - d. 10 billion
6. _____ is the exchanged of information and ideas, needs and desires, between two or more individuals.
 - a. Semantics
 - b. Speech
 - c. Language
 - d. Communication
7. Intonation, stress or emphasis, speed or rate of delivery, and pause or hesitation are
 - a. Metalinguistic cues
 - b. Paralinguistic codes
 - c. Nonlinguistic cues
 - d. Proxemic cues

8. The ability to talk about language, analyze it, think about it, judge it, and see it as an entity separate from its content or out of context is called
 - a. Metalinguistics
 - b. Nonlinguistics
 - c. Paralinguistics
 - d. Proxemics
9. Early human communication was likely
 - a. Speech-based
 - b. Gestural
 - c. Uncooperative
 - d. Grammatical
10. What property of language allows us to communicate beyond the immediate context?
 - a. Reflexiveness
 - b. Arbitrariness
 - c. Generativity
 - d. Displacement
11. Form, content, and use comprise the following:
 - a. Form = syntax, phonology, morphology; Content = semantics; Use = pragmatics
 - b. Form = syntax and semantics; Content = phonology and morphology; Use = pragmatics
 - c. Form = semantics, phonology, morphology; Content = syntax; Use = pragmatics
 - d. Form = syntax; Content = semantics, morphology, phonology; Use = Pragmatics
12. The rules of _____ specify word, phrase, and clause order; sentence organization; and the relationships among words, word classes, and other sentence elements.
 - a. Syntax
 - b. Semantics
 - c. Pragmatics
 - d. Morphology
 - e. Phonology
13. _____ is concerned with the internal organization of words.
 - a. Syntax
 - b. Semantics
 - c. Pragmatics
 - d. Morphology
 - e. Phonology
14. _____ is the aspect of language concerned with the rules governing the structure, distribution, and sequencing of speech sounds and the shape of syllables.
 - a. Syntax
 - b. Semantics
 - c. Pragmatics
 - d. Morphology
 - e. Phonology
15. English has approximately _____ phonemes.
 - a. 23

- b. 36
 - c. 43
 - d. 62
16. _____ contain(s) word and symbol definitions and is primarily verbal; it forms each person's lexicon.
- a. Semantic features
 - b. Word knowledge
 - c. Lexical retrieval
 - d. Semantic status
17. Antonyms are words that
- a. Differ in the value of one feature
 - b. Differ in the value of all features
 - c. Share almost identical features
 - d. None of the above
18. _____ is how a set of utterances is used to convey a message.
- a. Pragmatics
 - b. Conversation
 - c. Dialogue
 - d. Discourse
19. _____ govern(s) sequential organization and coherence, repair of errors, role, and intentions.
- a. Pragmatic rules
 - b. The Cooperation Principle
 - c. Quality
 - d. Literality
20. _____ represent the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population.
- a. Asians and Asian Americans
 - b. Puerto Rican-Caribbean Americans
 - c. Mexican-Central Americans
 - d. African Americans
21. There are at least _____ regional dialects in the U.S.
- a. 10
 - b. 15
 - c. 20
 - d. 25
22. In which racial/ethnic dialect is use of habitual "be" a feature?
- a. African American English
 - b. Spanish-influenced or Latino English
 - c. Asian English
23. In which racial/ethnic dialect is omission of final consonants prevalent?
- a. African American English
 - b. Spanish-influenced or Latino English
 - c. Asian English

Essay/Short Answer:

1. What are the three characteristics of language?
2. What are the five parameters of language?

3. Describe the deficit approach and the sociolinguistic approach as they relate to the study of dialects.
4. Name at least four reasons for the worldwide loss of languages.
5. Briefly explain how we know speech is not an essential feature of language.
6. What is communicative competence?
7. Briefly describe ways nonlinguistic cues can convey information.
8. What is the difference between linguistic competence and linguistic performance?
9. What are the three reasons why speakers can generate an almost infinite number of sentences from a finite number of words and word categories?
10. Define *morphemes*, *free morphemes*, and *bound morphemes*.
11. What is the difference between distributional and sequencing rules as they relate to phonology?
12. What are the four maxims of the Cooperation Principle?
13. What is the difference between style shifting and code switching?
14. What are the major racial and ethnic dialects in the U.S.?

Test Bank Answer Key

Chapter One – The Territory

Multiple Choice:

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. A
5. C
6. D
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. D
11. A
12. A
13. D
14. E
15. C
16. B
17. A
18. D
19. A
20. A
21. A
22. A
23. C

Essay/Short Answer:

1. It is a social tool, rule-governed, and generative.
2. Syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics, pragmatics
3. The deficit approach to dialects assigns status based on the amount of variation from the standard. The sociolinguistic approach recognizes all dialects as valid and related forms of a language with no relative status assigned.
4. Government policy, dwindling indigenous populations, the movements of populations to cities, mass media, lack of education of the young, use of the internet (need to converse in one language is fostering increasing use of English).
5. American Sign Language, for example, does not use speech as a vehicle for transmission. It is a separate language with its own rules for symbol combinations. This is not unique to ASL; there are approximately 50 sign languages used worldwide.
6. The degree to which a speaker is successful in communicating, measured by the appropriateness and effectiveness of the message.

7. Use of gestures, body posture, facial expression, eye contact, head and body movement, and physical distance/proxemics.
8. A language user's underlying knowledge about the system of rules is called linguistic competence. Linguistic knowledge in actual usage is called linguistic performance.
9. Words can refer to more than one entity, entities can be called more than one name, words can be combined in a variety of ways.
10. A morpheme is the smallest grammatical unit and is indivisible without violating the meaning or producing meaningless units. Free morphemes are independent and can stand alone. Bound morphemes are grammatical markers that cannot function independently; can be derivational or inflectional.
11. Distributional rules describe which phonemes can be employed in various positions in words, whereas sequencing rules address the sound modifications made when two phonemes appear next to each other.
12. Quantity, quality, relation, manner
13. The variation from formal to informal styles or the reverse is style shifting and is practiced by all speakers. Speakers with a different native language often retain vestiges of that language; they typically code switch from one language to another.
14. African American English, Spanish-influenced or Latino English, Asian English