

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY  
HYDERABAD 500007



SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

MA English (Semester I)

INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

ASSIGNMENT I

(Based on Block I)

(This assignment has 04 printed pages.)

- I. Describe in about 300 words how the traditional and the structural approaches to linguistics differ from each other.
- II. Explain the distinction between the following:
  - a. phonetics and phonology
  - b. interchangeability and creativity
  - c. discreteness and displacement
  - d. synchronic and diachronic linguistics
- III. Say whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the statements you consider false.
  1. In a hypothetical language [lid] means 'hear' and [kid] means 'smell'. This shows that the sounds [l] and [k] are in complementary distribution in this language.
  2. The following words from a hypothetical language show that [t] and [d] are in contrastive distribution.
    - a. [ten] "talk"
    - b. [dent] "improve"
    - c. [del] "listen"
    - d. [dint] "walk"
  3. In a hypothetical language [s] occurs only when it is immediately preceded by a consonant, and [z] occurs in all other positions. Hence, in this language, the two sounds [s] and [z] are in contrastive distribution.
- IV. Write short notes on the following in about 50 words each. Give examples to illustrate.
  - a. bound morpheme
  - b. derivational suffix
  - c. compound

V A. Consider the sounds [t] and [d] in the following data from a hypothetical language and determine whether they are allophones of the same phoneme, or represent two different phonemes. In other words, are they in complementary or contrastive distribution?

B. State the principle(s) on which your conclusion is based.

- a. [trambo] "rain"
- b. [dnuku] "tree"
- c. [tres] "chain"
- d. [demi] "book"
- e. [trond] "flower"
- f. [pudli] "drop"

VI Identify the number of morphemes in each word. One has been done for you.

- a. Were ..... be + past + plural ..... three morphemes
- b. Manly
- c. Men
- d. Wanted
- e. Went
- f. Data

VII. Analyze the following data from a hypothetical language into morphemes. What are their meanings? (Hint: Divide the word into morphemes according to the given meaning). The meaning of one morpheme is given below. Give the remaining morphemes and their meanings.

- |                |                    |           |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| a. [ninarudi]  | "I return"         | ta = will |
| b. [unarudi]   | "you return"       |           |
| c. [watarudi]  | "they will return" |           |
| d. [ninaponda] | "I crush"          |           |
| e. [unatoka]   | "you go"           |           |
| f. [watafika]  | "they will arrive" |           |

VIII. Observe the following words and state what type(s) of process was/were used for their formation.

Please do not give the explanation. One has been done for you. Follow the pattern.

- a. Chortle ..... blend
- b. COP 20
- c. relationships
- d. hangry
- e. blackboard
- f. bye-bye

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## ASSIGNMENT II

(Based on Block II)

**Ia. Draw tree diagrams for the following sentences. (You must keep on dividing every constituent until you reach the word level. You must keep on dividing the VP until you reach the tense level. You must not use any triangles.)**

1. The accident was caused by dangerous driving.
2. The letter might have been sent to the wrong address.
3. I think he will pass the exam.

**Ib. Formulate a set of phrase structure rules for the three sentences given above, i.e. sentences 1-3 in question Ia. (You must formulate only one set of rules for all the three sentences taken together, not one set of rules for each sentence.)**

**II. Give the argument structure of the verbs in the following sentences:**

1. She never wears a hat.
2. He thought he knew the voice.
3. I wish she would come.

**III. Say how the NPs in the sentences given below are assigned Case:**

1. She is in London at the moment.
2. She is learning English.
3. Her friend said she could use his car.

**IV. Insert PRO in the following sentences wherever it is needed to satisfy the theta criterion and co-index it with its controller if there is a controller in the sentence:**

1. She told him to go home.
2. They want to go on holiday to Italy this year.
3. I persuaded local businesses to invest in the project.

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Assignment III

(This Section is based on Block III.)

**I. State whether the following conversation between Rohit and Anita is an instance of formal or informal style? Give reasons.**

Rohit: Hey, Annie! Plan for today?

Anita: Nothing much. Just drivin' around the city.

**II. State whether the following presuppositions are existential, factive, lexical, structural, non-factive or counterfactual. Give reasons.**

- a. Arushi stopped going to the college.
- b. He dreamed about living in Los Angeles.
- c. When did the university start classes in the online mode?
- d. He didn't realise that they were not talking to each other.

**III. Analyse the following the expressions and say whether Grice's maxims are followed or violated and if so, why.**

- a. Sakshi: When did you buy the fridge?  
Bhumika: I just came back from the market.
- b. Sameer: The M.A. Contact Programme was held in the online mode this year.  
Nitin: Yes, that is correct. The classes started on February 16th. Around 28 students attended the contact classes. The exam schedule was from March 14th to March 17th.
- c. Ayesha: Where is the Golconda Fort situated?  
Dhruv: It is situated in Hyderabad.
- d. Neha: When are you going home?  
Supriya: I will pose this question to my colleagues and respond at a suitable time.

**IV. At which level of linguistic analysis does the variation occur in (a) and (b)? What non-linguistic and social factors are likely to account for the different ways of saying the same thing in (a) and (b)?**

- a. Using of mobile phones is prohibited. Switch your mobile phone off and keep it in your

- bag while you are in the library.
- b. You can't use your mobile phone in the library, Akanksha. Please switch it off and keep it in your bag.

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