

**2008 National Taichung University  
English Department Transfer Exam  
Introduction to Linguistics**

**I. Match: (Each item will be used only once.) 30%**

A. morphology	F. phonetics alphabet
B. complementary distribution	G. pragmatics
C. syntax	H. morpheme
D. semantics	I. phonology
E. antonyms	J. speech

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of phrases, clauses and sentences.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ can be loosely defined as a minimal unit having more or less constant meaning associated with more or less constant form.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a study of how language is used to communicate within its situational context.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of the sound system of language: the rules that govern pronunciation.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of linguistic meaning; that is, the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of word formation.
7. When two items never occur in the same environment, the two items are said to be in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to what we are actually doing when we talk or listen.
9. The words are \_\_\_\_\_ if their meanings differ only in the value for one single semantic feature.
10. Linguists have developed a \_\_\_\_\_, in which one symbol always corresponds to a single phoneme.

**II. Choose the best answer: 60%**

11. "Keep quiet." is a(an) \_\_\_\_\_ sentence in the syntactic form.
  - (A) declarative
  - (B) imperative
  - (C) exclamatory
  - (D) interrogative
12. Nonliteral locutionary acts are those for which a literal interpretation is

either impossible or absurd within the context of the utterance. Which is a nonliteral locutionary act?

- (A) Please turn down the radio.
- (B) I am very hungry.
- (C) I could eat a horse.
- (D) Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

13. A commissive is an utterance used to commit the speaker to do something. Which of the following utterances is a commissive?

- (A) Who won the 1968 presidential election?
- (B) I'll meet you at the library at 10:00 p.m.
- (C) I have five toes on my right foot.
- (D) I'm sorry for calling you a dweeb.

14. In order for a performative verb to have its performative sense it must (i) be positive, (ii) be present tense, (iii) have a first person agent and (iv) refer to a specific event. Which of the following sentences has a performative verb?

- (A) I can't promise to bring the beans.
- (B) I promise I'll bring the beans.
- (C) I promise I would bring the beans.
- (D) I promise people things from time to time

15. What semantic feature or property differentiates the following sets of nouns?

{ niece, daughter, sister VS. nun, woman, girl }

- (A) human
- (B) concrete
- (C) female
- (D) relative

16. A hyponym is a word that contains the meaning of another word; the contained word is known as the superordinate. What is the lowest hyponym in the following set of nouns?

{ animal, female, cow, mammal }

- (A) animal
- (B) female
- (C) cow
- (D) mammal

17. What is the superordinate in the following set of nouns?

{ jasmine, lily, flower, rose }

- (A) jasmine
  - (B) lily
  - (C) flower
  - (D) rose
18. Binary antonyms are pairs that exhaust all possibilities along some dimension. Which of the following pairs is binary antonyms?
- (A) hot vs. cold
  - (B) dark vs. bright
  - (C) dead vs. alive
  - (D) warm vs. cool
19. Below are some English phrases. Which phrase is a NOUN PHRASE?
- (A) Ice floats.
  - (B) was a fool
  - (C) ran
  - (D) the red car
20. Every phrasal category contains at least one lexical category of the same basic type. Which of the following statements is FALSE?
- (A) "The fat man ate." contains a NP.
  - (B) "Chris hit the ball." contains a VP.
  - (C) "The battery died." contains a PP.
  - (D) "The teacher is angry." contains an AP.
21. Which of the following sentences is structurally ambiguous?
- (A) Visiting relatives can sometimes be a nuisance.
  - (B) Meet me at the bank.
  - (C) The man examined the plant.
  - (D) Visiting relatives are sometimes a nuisance.
22. Consider the following data:
- (1) I wrote a letter and a postcard.
  - (2) \*I wrote a letter and to Fred.
  - (3) I wrote to Fred and to Ricky.
  - (4) \*I wrote carefully and a letter.
- The analysis that best explains these data is that:
- (A) Only items belonging to identical categories can be conjoined by "and."
  - (B) Only items belonging to different categories can be conjoined by "and."
  - (C) Only NPs can be conjoined by "and."
  - (D) Only PPs can be conjoined by "and."

23. Free morphemes are those that can stand alone as words. Which is the free morpheme in the following words?
- (A) The morpheme { er } , as in teachers
  - (B) The morpheme { press } , as in suppress
  - (C) The morpheme { clude } , as in conclude
  - (D) The morpheme { s } , as in cats
24. The main verb is always the right –most verb in a simple sentence. Thus, in the sentence “John should have gone”, the main verb is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) should
  - (B) have
  - (C) gone
  - (D) have gone
25. In English affixes, which of the following statements is TRUE?
- (A) All derivational affixes are suffixes.
  - (B) All derivational affixes are prefixes.
  - (C) All inflectional affixes are prefixes.
  - (D) All inflectional affixes are suffixes.
26. English contains a group of words called reflexive pronouns. These pronouns are formed by adding suffix –self or –selves to a personal pronoun. Personal pronouns have three forms: nominative, objective and possessive. Based on the following data, which form of the personal pronouns is –self or -selves added to in order to form a reflexive pronoun?
- [ myself, ourselves, yourselves, yourself ]
- (A) nominative
  - (B) objective
  - (C) possessive
  - (D) none of the above
27. Identify the segment that differs in manner of articulation from the other three in the following group. /n/, /f/, /s/, /z/
- (A) /n/
  - (B) /f/
  - (C) /s/
  - (D) /z/
28. Identify the segment that differs in voicing from the other three in the following group. /b/, /p/, /r/, /v/
- (A) /b/

- (B) /p/
- (C) /r/
- (D) /v/

29. Give the English phonemic symbol that corresponds to the following articulatory descriptions: voiced palatal glide.

- (A) /e/
- (B) /y/
- (C) /u/
- (D) /o/

30. Give the English phonemes that correspond to the following feature specifications.

{ -back  
+tense }

- (A) /i/, /e/
- (B) /i/, /o/
- (C) /e/, /u/
- (D) /u/, /o/

**III. Consider the following data from Isleta, a dialect of Southern Tiwa, a native American language spoken in New Mexico, and answer the questions that follow: 10%**

temiban	“I went”	mimiay	“he was going”
amiban	“you went”	tewanban	“I came”
temiwe	“I am going”	tewanhi	“I will come”

List the morphemes corresponding to the following English translations.

- (1) “I”      (2) “go”      (3) “(present progressive)”  
(4) “you”      (5) “come”      (6) “(past progressive)”  
(7) “he”      (8) “past”      (9) “(future)”

10. What sort of affixes are the subject morphemes?

- A. prefix
- B. infix
- C. suffix
- D. None of the above