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國立臺灣大學98學年度碩士班招生考試試題

科目:語言學概論

題號: 40

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※ 注意:請於試卷上依序作答,並應註明作答之部份及其題號。

Answer all questions in English and in essay form.

1. Study the following Japanese data carefully. (20%)

[ko] 'child'

[ojisan] 'uncle'

[sho] 'book'

[ko:] 'this way'

[oji:san] 'grandfather'

[sho:] 'prize'

[kyu:nen] 'the old year'

[kyonen] 'last year'

[kyo:nen] 'a bad year'

- i. Is there any minimal pair? Give your evidence.
- ii. What is the phonetic feature that distinguishes meaning here?
- iii. Does the answer to (ii) belong to segmental features? What is the difference between segmental feature and suprasegmental feature?
- iv. List suprasegmental features in language with examples and explain how they play a role in second language acquisition.
- Decide whether each of the following (underlined) is a performance verb or not. If it is, describe the felicity conditions that must be in place for the sentence to have force. If it is not a performance verb, explain why not. (15%)
- a. I will challenge you to a debate if you win the nomination.
- b. I dare you to fight me.
- c. Nixon resigned from the presidency.
- d. I move that we pass the motion as written.
- e. I sentence you to five years in prison.
- 3. Charles Hockett has presented a list of descriptive characteristics of language as the design features of language. The diagram below shows the Babylonian numbers and the way they count. Do you think it is a kind of language (or a written language)? In what way they are similar with the common language we use, and in what way they differ. Describe the design features of language in your own word, or you can cite Hockett's list with clear explanation. (25%)

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4. Analyze the semantics of the following instances involving the word shang 'up' in and show how its various senses are linked to one another in a systematic way through cognitive processes. (20%)

(a)頭上 (b)桌上 (c)牆上 (d)街上 (e)上山 (f)上車 (g) 閣下至上 (h)上書

(i)上綱 (j)上藥 (k)上工 (l)上鉤 (m)上游 (n)上週 (o)上上策 (p)上漲 (q)上司

(r)上校 (s)證嚴上人 (t)世界上

5. Read the following passage written in Middle English by William Caxton. How is English today different from English of his day? Look specifically at spelling, pronunciation, morphology and grammar. (20%)

And certaynly our langage now vsed varyeth ferre from that whiche was vsed and spoken whan I was borne and that comyn englysshe that is spoken in one shyre varyeth from a nother.

In so moche that in my dayes happened that certayn marchauntes were in a shippe in tamyse for to have sayled over the see into zelande and for lacke of wynde thei taryed atte forlond, and wente to lande for to refreshe them and one of they mnamed sheffelde a mercer cam in to an hows and axed for mete, and specyally he axyd after eggys.

And the good wyf answerde that she coude speke no frenshe, and she vnderstode hym not / And thenne at laste a nother sayd that he wolde haue eyren / then the good wyf sayd that she vnderstod hym wel / Lo what sholde a man in thyse dayes now wryte. egges or eyren/

Translations

And certainly our language now used varies far from that which was used and spoken when I was born and that common English that is spoken in one shire varies from another.

In so much in that in my days, certain merchants were in a ship in the Thames for to have sailed to Holland, but for lack of wind, they tarried at Forland, and went to land to refresh themselves, and one of them, named Sheffelde, a mercer, came into a house and asked for meat, specifically he asked for eggs.

And the good wife answered that she could not speak French and she understood him not. And then another said that he would have eyren. Then the good wife said she understood him well. Lo what should a man in these days now write: eggs or eyren?

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