LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

MULTIPLE CHOICE AND FALSE/TRUE

1. All ______________, as systems of communication using sounds that are put together in meaningful ways according to a set of rules, are organized on the same basic plan (p. 90).
   a. languages
   b. symbols
   c. signals
   d. phonetics
   e. core vocabulary

2. In Pavlov’s classical study of conditioning, a dog that salivated to the taste of meat was taught to salivate to the sound of a bell by having the two stimuli paired. After this training, the ringing of a bell constituted a _____________ for the dog because the meaning, “meat,” was implicit in the immediate experience of bell ringing; for the dog it had a natural or self-evident meaning. (p. 90)
   a. symbol
   b. signal
   c. language
   d. grammar
   e. Paralanguage

3. Which of the following statements about signals and symbols is INCORRECT? (p. 90)
   a. Both signals and symbols are forms of communication.
   b. Both signals and symbols can be learned.
   c. Signals are in response to aspects of the immediate environment such as Pavlov’s dog salivating at the sound of a bell or a human’s eye dilating at the sight of something pleasurable.
   d. Symbols are arbitrary and can be used independent of a particular environment, such as the word “Roman” when no Rome or Romans are present, or “holy water” when a ritual ceremony has been performed over river water.
   e. All of the above are correct.

4. Human culture as we know it could have easily existed without language. T F (p. 90)

5. The modern scientific study of all aspects of language is (p. 93)
   a. kinetics.
   b. phonology.
   c. linguistics.
   d. grammar.
   e. glottochronology.

6. Which of the following statements about the history of linguistics is INCORRECT? (p. 93)
   a. The discovery of system, regularity, and relationships in linguistic data occurred in the 17th century.
   b. The modern scientific study of language began in the 17th century with the accumulation of facts about the languages spoken by people encountered during the Age of Exploration.
c. In the 19th century, laws and principles of language were formulated.
d. Many theories of language have been developed in the 20th century.
e. Linguistics is the modern scientific study of all aspects of language.

7. The systemic study of the production, transmission, and reception of speech sounds is (p. 93)
   a. linguistics.
   b. morphology.
   c. frame substitution.
   d. phonetics.
   e. syntax.

8. The study of abstract rules that guide the sound patterns of a language is called (p. 93)
   a. phonetics.
   b. phonology.
   c. syntax.
   d. morphology.
   e. frame substitution.

9. The roots of linguistics, the modern scientific study of language, go back a long way to the works of ancient grammarians in ____________, more than two thousand years ago. (p. 93)
   a. India
   b. Greece
   c. Egypt
   d. Mesopotamia
   e. Persia

10. The smallest class of sound that makes a difference in meaning is a(n) (p. 95)
    a. allophone.
    b. morpheme.
    c. allomorph.
    d. phoneme.
    e. free morpheme.

11. You are a linguist using a minimal-pair test to study the sound system of English. You give your subjects two short words that are exactly the same except for one sound, and ask if the difference in sound has any effect on the meaning of the word—for example, the English words “bat” and “vat.” They say yes (wouldn’t you prefer to have your dinner cooked in a vat instead of a bat?). You have identified two _______________. If, however, you give an equivalent test to someone speaking Spanish, the sounds “v” and “b” would not be perceived as conveying a difference in meaning (ask a Spanish-speaker to say the word caballo—the “b” sound is much softer than the English “b,” a sort of cross between “b” and “v”); thus to a Spanish-speaker, the “b” and “v” sounds would be _______________. (p. 95)
    a. languages/dialects
    b. vocal qualifiers/vocal segregates
    c. phonemes/morphemes
    d. morphemes/allomorphs
    e. phonemes/allophones

12. While the phonologist is making an inventory of permissible sounds in a language, the
is deciphering the groups or combinations of sounds that have meaning, or that are actually used to convey information. (p. 95)

- phoneticist
- linguist
- morphologist
- grammaticist
- glottochronologist

13. Consider the English word “dog.” Which of the following is a morpheme? (p. 96)

- “d”
- “dog”
- “o”
- “g”
- All of the above

14. Frame substitution is a method used to identify the syntactic units of a language. For example, what is the syntactic unit which is “framed” by eliciting responses to the phrase, “I see a [***]? (p.96)

- adverb
- noun
- verb
- preposition
- adjective

15. The method called frame substitution enables the linguist to establish the rules or principles by which language users construct phrases and sentences, i.e., the _____________ of the language. (p.96)

- morphology
- form classes
- core vocabulary
- sociolinguistics
- syntax

16. The entire formal structure of a language consisting of all observations about its meaningful units of sounds and the rules or principles of making phrases and sentences is called its (p.96)

- syntax.
- form classes.
- morphology.
- phonology.
- grammar.

17. Often, _____________ messages complement spoken messages. (p. 97)

- inadvertent
- unconscious
- gestural
- unique
- unspoken

18. Learned gestures different cultures assign different meanings to are known as _____________
gestures. For example, the “OK” sign used by North Americans (the thumb and forefinger other fingers are extended); in Brazil it is an obscene gesture. (p.97)

a. obscene
b. traditional
c. conventional
d. inappropriate
e. low class

19. Humankind’s repertoire of body language is enormous. They are capable of making more than ________ facial expressions. (p.98)

a. 1,500
b. 10,000
c. 7,000
d. 4,000
e. 3,500

20. Which of the following statements about kinesics is CORRECT? (p.98)

a. Kinesics refers to the system of extralinguistic noises that accompany spoken language.
b. Kinesics research has demonstrated that gender signals communicated through posture are biologically based rather than learned.
c. Cross-cultural research indicates that the body language used when people are greeting each other is similar all over the world.
d. All cultures have the same gestures for “yes” and “no.”
e. All of the above are correct.

21. Paralanguage is to speech as _____________ is to position of the body. (p.100)

a. kinesics
b. ethnolinguistics
c. form class
d. phonetics
e. displacement

22. Kinesics is a method for notating and analyzing (p.100)

a. screaming.
b. kissing.
c. any form of body language.
d. fighting.
e. food.

23. _____________, is the cross-cultural study of humankind’s perception and use of space. (p.100)

a. Kinesics
b. Proxemics
c. Phonetics
d. Ethnography
e. Ethnology

24. Paralanguage includes not only the way that people say things but also a variety of extralinguistic noises called __________ (p.101)
25. Two people say to you, “You sure look nice today.” Although they are saying the same words, you can tell that one person is being complimentary and the other sarcastic by their _______________ (p.101)

a. vocalizations.
b. vocal characteristics.
c. voice qualities.
d. voice segregates.
e. vocal qualifiers.

26. _______________ linguistics is concerned with the study of relationships between earlier and later forms of a language, antecedents (in older languages) of developments in modern languages, and relationships among older languages. (p.102)

a. Extra-
b. Descriptive
c. Socio-
d. Historical
e. Para-

27. In contrast with historical linguistics, descriptive linguistics (p.102)

a. attempts to explain the features of a particular language at one time in its history.
b. looks at languages as separate systems without considering how they might be related to each other.
c. attempts to construct a language’s historical development.
d. investigates relationships between earlier and later forms of the same language.
e. a and b only

28. A language family is a group of languages (p.102)

a. that all have the same core vocabulary.
b. that are subordinate to a dominant language.
c. that all have the same syntax.
d. that use the same number of sounds.
e. that are descended from a single ancestral language.

29. Which of the following statements about the English language is CORRECT? (p.102)

a. English belongs to the Indo-European language family.
b. English belongs to the Germanic language subgroup.
c. English is one of the many languages which diverged from an ancient unified language called Proto-Indo-European.
d. None of the above are correct.
e. All of the above are correct.

30. The development of different languages from a single ancestral language is called (p.102)
31. If the core vocabulary of two languages is compared by glottochronologists, it is thought possible to determine (p.102)

   a. if the two languages perceive reality in the same way.
   b. if the two languages use the same syntax.
   c. if they share the same allophones.
   d. if they have a similar technology
   e. how long ago the languages separated from each other.

32. When speakers from different language groups are involved in regular trade relations, they may create ______ languages in which the syntax and vocabulary of two distinct languages are simplified and combined. (p.104)

   a. pigeon
   b. confusing
   c. phonetic
   d. pidgin
   e. unintelligible

33. On April 10, 1984, the ____________ became the first community of Native Americans in the United States to affirm the right of its members to regain and maintain fluency in the ancestral language. (p.105)

   a. Southern Paiute
   b. Northern Paiute
   c. Northern Ute
   d. Isleta Pueblo
   e. Mescalera Apache

34. The Northern Ute were the first community of American Indians to affirm the right of its members to maintain fluency in their native language. (p.105)  T  F

35. Although language may be studied as an independent system, it is also important to look at language in terms of what it tells us about society and culture. Whatever its phonemes, syntax, and history, language is a dynamic, adaptive system which facilitates the speakers’ survival and gives clues about what is significant in their lives. When we focus on the relationship between language and the society and culture of those who speak it, we are doing (p.106)

   a. Ethnolinguistics.
   b. descriptive linguistics.
   c. historical linguistics.
   d. glottochronology.
   e. frame substitution.

36. The term _____ is usually used to refer to varying forms of a language that reflect particular regions or social classes and that are similar enough to be mutually intelligible. (p.109)
37. A Scottish butler in an English mansion says to the lady of the house, “You may wish to stay inside today, Madam; it’s quite cold outside.” But when he goes back to his own cottage he is likely to say to his wife in broad Scots, “Shut the door and get inside, Maggie, you’ll freeze your buns off.” In linguistics this is an example of (p.110)

a. code switching.
b. class consciousness.
c. glottochronology.
d. phonological analysis.
e. Whorfian hypothesis.

38. Among the oldest writing systems in the world is ______________, developed about ________ years ago and in use for about 3,500 years. (p.114)

a. Mesopotamian wedge-shaped writing/4000
b. Egyptian hieroglyphics/5,000
c. Chinese pictographs/3,500
d. Maya hieroglyphics/2,500
e. Semitic inscriptions/3,000

39. Most of the alphabets in use today descended from the (p.115)

a. Egyptians.
b. Greeks.
c. Phoenicians.
d. Romans.
e. Anglo Saxons.

MATCHING

40. Match the term to its definition.

______ allomorphs a. the smallest classes of sound that make a difference in meaning

______ phonemes b. method of dating divergence within language families

______ form classes c. variations of a morpheme

______ kinesics d. posture, facial expressions, and body motion

______ glottochronology e. the parts of speech that work the same way in any sentence
SHORT ANSWER

CHOOSE TO ANSWER THREE OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

41. What is the difference between a signal and a symbol? (p.90)

42. What is phonetics? (p.93)

43. Compare kinesics with paralanguage. (p.98/100)

44. What is linguistic divergence and how is it used in glottochronology? (p.102)

45. Give an example of how the analysis of vocabulary can tell us what is important in a culture. (p.107)

46. What does kinship terminology reveal about a culture? (p.108)

ESSAY

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

1. Would it be accurate to claim language as a distinguishing feature of H. sapiens? Why, why not? What evidence exists for the uniqueness or non-uniqueness of human language?

2. Explain and critique the theory of linguistic relativity.

3. How is language linked to gender? Use examples from the text and add some of your own.

4. What is linguistic nationalism? Should the United States encourage and support the use of minority languages within its borders? Alternatively, is making English the official language of the U.S. a good idea?

5. Discuss the influence tool making may have had on the development of our species’ capacity for language.

6. Although thousands of languages have existed only spoken form, many have long been documented in one form of writing or another. Discuss the emergence and development of writing systems.

7. Discuss the anthropologists’ theories regarding the origin of language.

8. Discuss the point of view that language mirrors or reflects, rather than determines, cultural reality. Provide examples to support that view.