

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

M.A.

M.A. English Language (Modern): Topics in Modern English Linguistics

COURSE CODE : ENGLMA03

DATE : 08-MAY-02

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 hours

02-N0118-3-30

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TURN OVER

Topics in English Linguistics

Answer three questions, two from one section and one from another section.

Begin each section in a new answer book.

Do not use substantially the same material in more than one answer, whether on this paper or in other parts of the examination.

SECTION A: English Transformational Syntax

1. At different stages of its development generative grammar has been referred to as 'Transformational Grammar' (TG), 'Government and Binding Theory' (GB) and 'Principles and Parameters Theory' (PP). Comment on the notions 'TG/transformation', 'GB' and 'PP' and their significance for the grammar model.
2. Explain the difference between lexical and functional categories, and give arguments for distinguishing the latter in a generative grammar model.
3. 'There's some evidence to indicate that two levels [in phrase structure], the word/head level and the phrase level, isn't enough' (G. Poole). Discuss.
4. Write short notes on any two of the following, illustrating your answers with examples.
 - a NP-traces
 - b Raising
 - c the Specifier-of-CP node
 - d complementizers.

SECTION B: Morphology

1. 'For some scholars, a morphological process is either productive or not. For others, there are degrees of productivity' (L. Bauer). Which of these views do you think best fits what you know of the processes of lexical word formation in English?
2. Discuss and illustrate one or more approaches to describing the phonological effects associated with affixation in English words.
3. 'Compound words have structures that are syntax-like' (P. H. Matthews). Discuss.
4. Discuss any examples of English word formation that might be used in examining the notion of 'competition' among morphological processes.
5. Compare inflectional and derivational processes in any way you find interesting.

SECTION C: Sociolinguistics

1. Explain what is meant in sociolinguistics by 'face' and how this concept helps to explain our use of language.
2. What does it mean to say that every word that we utter is an 'act of identity' that locates us in a 'multidimensional social space'?
3. Explain the main methods used in studying speech variation quantitatively, and some of the results of this kind of research.
4. Do people who speak different languages therefore think differently?
5. Discuss the notion of 'linguistic inequality'.

SECTION D: English accents and dialects

1. What is meant by the term Estuary English (EE)? Do you agree with Haenni's opinion that "It is ... very difficult to uphold the notion of EE as a distinct variety in its own right"?
2. Either: (a) Compare the vowel systems of any *two* varieties of English.
Or: (b) What are the main ways in which the accents of the north of England differ from those of the south?
3. People sometimes claim that Australians sound like Cockneys. How much truth is there in this claim?