
电子科技大学

2015 年攻读硕士学位研究生入学考试试题

考试科目：846 英语语言学基础知识及运用

注：无机读卡，所有答案必须写在答题纸上，写在试卷或草稿纸上均无效。

I. Define the following terms with examples if necessary (30 points, 5 points each):

1. cooperative principle
2. psycholinguistics
3. conceptual meaning
4. textual function
5. stem
6. arbitrariness

II. Make a judgment and an evaluation of the following with your own reasons (20 points, 4 points each):

1. By duality of language is meant the property of having two levels of structures; we call sounds secondary units as opposed to such primary units as words, since the secondary units are meaningless and the primary units have distinct and identifiable meaning.
2. All human languages are complicated systems of communication.
3. Functionalists see language as knowledge from the intro-organic angle, whereas formalists see language as behaviour from the inter-organic angle.
4. In the antonymous pairs, husband—wife and male—female are different because the first pair is complementary and the second converse.
5. One's dialect refers to the language variety according to *user* whereas one's register refers to the language variety according to *use* because one's dialect shows who (or what) you are and one's register shows what you are doing.

III. Briefly answer the following questions (45 points; 9 points each):

1. Please briefly explain the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.
2. Can you notice the parallel relation between the two pairs of terms “phoneme—allophone” and “morpheme—allomorph”? And please explain with examples the differences between “phoneme” and “allophone”, “morpheme” and “allomorph”.
3. Though the surface structures of the following two sentences are the same, they mean differently, why?
1) John is eager to please. 2) John is easy to please.

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4. We can say “The girl is being talkative” or “I’m trying to encourage the girl to be talkative”, but we cannot say “The girl is being pretty” or “I’m trying to encourage the girl to be pretty”, why?
5. Look at the following dialogue, what does Speaker B intend to mean? How does the conversation make sense or achieve coherence?
- Speaker A: Mrs Smith is an old bag (an unpleasant and unattractive woman)!
- Speaker B: It’s a very fine day today, isn’t it?

IV. Discuss the following questions in detail (55 points, 10 points for the first, 15 points for 2—4 each):

1. Why can’t we explain the exact meaning of the sentence “This is a very difficult operation”?
2. Look closely at the following words in each group, then try to generalize the type of word-formation processes and explain the term of each process:
 - 1) smoke + fog→smog; breakfast + lunch→brunch
 - 2) advertisement→ad; aeroplane→plane; influenza→flu
 - 3) European Economic Community→EEC; North Atlantic Treaty Organization→NATO
3. If we want to study the ideational meaning in perspective of Functional Grammar, what aspects of language shall we analyze? You may take the following sentence as an example for your analysis.
“The woman kicked the little girl.”
4. Please analyze the linguistic features and the different cohesive devices in the following poem:

Sing a song of sixpence, a pocket full of rye,
Four-and-twenty blackbirds baked in a pie,
When the pie was opened, the birds began to sing,
Wasn’t that a dainty dish to set before a king?

The king was in his counting house, counting out his money,
The queen was in the parlour, eating bread and honey,
The maid was in the garden, hanging out the clothes.
Along came a blackbird and pecked off her nose.