



# SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI COLLEGE

Affiliated to Bharathidasan University  
Nationally Accredited at 'A' Grade (4<sup>th</sup> Cycle) by NAAC | An ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Institution  
**TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620 002.**

## SEMESTER I

### INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

SUB CODE :22ACCEN8

#### Unit I – The Origin and Development of Language

1. The primary function of language is:

- A. Entertainment
- B. Communication
- C. Decoration
- D. Religion

2. Human language is different from animal communication because it is:

- A. Instinctive
- B. Genetic
- C. Creative
- D. Fixed

3. The \*Pooh-pooh theory\* explains language origin through:

- A. Emotions
- B. Singing
- C. Gestures

D. Food

4. Writing systems developed:

A. Before speech

B. Along with speech

C. After speech

D. Independently

5. The process through which languages evolve is called:

A. Simplification

B. Hybridization

C. Language change

D. Translation

Unit II – Phonetics

6. The main organ of speech is the: A. Heart

B. Brain

C. Tongue

D. Eye

7. The sound /p/ is produced using: A. Glottis

B. Velum

C. Lips

D. Nose

8. Voiced sounds involve:

A. Nasal resonance

B. Tongue movement

C. Vocal cord vibration

D. Lip closure

9. Which is a nasal sound?

A. /t/

B. /b/

C. /n/

D. /s/

10. /f/ is categorized as a:

A. Plosive

B. Affricate

C. Fricative

D. Nasal

### Unit III – Phonology and Morphology

11. Phonology studies:

A. Word meaning

B. Grammar

C. Sound patterns

D. Vocabulary

12. A phoneme is:

A. A word

B. A morpheme

C. A sound unit

D. A syllable

13. The smallest unit of meaning in a word is:

- A. Syllable
- B. Sentence
- C. Morpheme
- D. Phrase

14. An example of a free morpheme is:

- A. -ed
- B. un-
- C. run
- D. -ing

15. Bound morphemes:

- A. Stand alone
- B. Cannot stand alone
- C. Are roots
- D. Are prefixes only

#### Unit IV – Syntax and Semantics

16. Syntax deals with:

- A. Sound
- B. Word meanings
- C. Sentence structure
- D. Rhythm

17. A sentence must follow proper: A. Stress

- B. Meaning
- C. Pronunciation
- D. Word order

18. Semantics is the study of:

- A. Grammar
- B. Meaning
- C. Writing
- D. Vocabulary

19. The literal meaning of a word is its:

- A. Connotation
- B. Intonation
- C. Denotation
- D. Polysemy

20. The sentence “He go to school” is incorrect due to:

- A. Semantics
- B. Phonology
- C. Syntax.
- D. Morphology

Unit V – Language, Society and Culture

21. Sociolinguistics studies:

- A. Grammar
- B. Style
- C. Social use of language

D. Sounds

22. A regional language variety is called a

A. Dialect

B. Register

C. Jargon

D. Accent

23. Language is shaped by:

A. Culture

B. Society

C. Identity

D. All of the above

24. Code-switching occurs in:

A. Monolingual settings

B. Books

C. Multilingual societies

D. Phones

25. A formal style of speech is called a

A. Register

B. Dialect

C. Accent

D. Syntax

SCHEME

1. B. Communication

2. C. Creative
3. A. Emotions
4. C. After speech
5. C. Language change
6. C. Tongue
7. C. Lips
8. C. Vocal cord vibration
9. C. /n/
10. C. Fricative
11. C. Sound patterns
12. C. A sound unit
13. C. Morpheme
14. C. run
15. B. Cannot stand alone
16. C. Sentence structure
17. D. Word order
18. B. Meaning
19. C. Denotation
20. C. Syntax.
21. C. Social use of language
22. A. Dialect
23. D. All of the above
24. C. Multilingual societies

25 . A. Register

II Fill in the Blanks :

Unit I

1. Language is a system of ----- symbols.
2. The origin of language is explained through various ----- .
3. The development of writing came ----- speech.
4. Human language is ----- meaning it can create infinite expressions.
5. The ----- theory connects language to emotional sounds.

Unit II

6. The ----- helps produce most speech sounds.
7. ----- cords vibrate in voiced sounds.
8. The sound /m/ is a ----- sound.
9. Articulatory phonetics studies how sounds are ----- .
10. The ----- cavity is used to make nasal sounds.

Unit III

11. A ----- is the smallest unit of sound.
12. The study of word formation is called -----.
13. ----- morphemes cannot stand alone.
14. The plural –s is an example of an ----- morpheme .
15. ----- morphemes change word meaning or class.

Unit IV

16. Syntax is concerned with ----- of words in sentences.
17. Semantics deals with -----.



18. The ----- meaning of a word is its literal meaning.

19. ----- meaning involves emotions or associations.

20. Grammar rules ensure correct sentence -----

#### Unit V

21. -----+ is the study of language in its social context.

22. A ----- is a variety of language spoken in a region.

23. Code-switching is switching between -----

24. Language reflects ----- identity.

25. ----- influences language through customs and beliefs.

#### SCHEME

1. arbitrary
2. theories
3. after
4. creative
5. Pooh-pooh
6. tongue
7. Vocal
8. Nasal
9. produced
10. nasal
11. phoneme
12. morphology
13. Bound
14. inflectional
15. Derivational
16. order
17. meaning

- 18. denotative
- 19. Connotative
- 20. structure
- 21. Sociolinguistics
- 22. dialect
- 23. languages
- 24. dialect
- 25. Culture

### III Short Question Answers:

#### Unit I

1. What is language?

Language is a system of arbitrary, structured symbols used for communication.

2. What is the Bow-wow theory?

Bow-wow theory suggests language originated from imitation of animal sounds.

3. Why is human language unique?

Human language is unique Because it is symbolic, creative, and infinitely generative.

4. How is writing related to speech?

Writing is a representation of spoken language. Hence it is related to speech.

5. What causes language change?

Language change causes Migration, technology, and cultural contact.

#### Unit II

6. What are speech organs?

speech organs are parts of the body used to produce speech, like the tongue, lips, and vocal cords.

7. What is a voiced sound?

Sound produced with vibrating vocal cords is a voiced sound.

8. What is a bilabial sound?

A sound made with both lips, like /b/ or /p/ is a bilabial sound.

9. Define fricative.

A fricative is a sound made by forcing air through a narrow space, like /f/.

10. What is the role of the soft palate?

Soft palate directs airflow to oral or nasal cavities.

### Unit III

11. What is phonology?

Phonology is the study of sound systems in languages.

12. Define morpheme.

Morpheme is the smallest unit of meaning in a language.

13. Differentiate between free and bound morphemes.

Free morphemes stand alone to give meaning. But bound morphemes are dependant.

14. What is a minimal pair?

→ Two words differing by one phoneme (e.g., 'bit' and 'pit') is called a minimal pair.

15. Give two examples of derivational morphemes.

un-, -ness (e.g., unhappy, darkness)

### Unit IV

16. What is syntax?

The rules that govern sentence structure is a syntax.

17. What is semantics?

Semantics is the study of meaning in language.

18. Define denotation and connotation.

Denotation is literal meaning. connotation is emotional or cultural association.

19. What is a syntactic error?

A syntactic error is an incorrect word order or grammar structure.

20. Give an example of semantic ambiguity.

I saw the man with the telescope.

#### Unit V

21. What is sociolinguistics?

Sociolinguistics is the study of how language interacts with society.

22. Define dialect.

A dialect is a regional or social variety of a language.

23. What is code-switching?

Code-switching is changing from one language to another in speech.

24. How does society influence language?

Society influences language through norms, identity, education, and power.

25. How is language tied to culture? Culture shapes the elements of language such as vocabulary, meaning, and communication styles.

#### IV. Paragraph Questions and Answers

#### Unit I

1. Explain any two theories regarding the origin of language.

The 'Bow-wow theory' says language originated from imitating natural sounds like animal cries. The 'Pooh-pooh theory' suggests language came from emotional interjections such as pain or surprise.

2. What makes human language different from animal communication?

Human language is symbolic, creative, structured, and evolves. It allows infinite expression, unlike limited animal signals.

3. Discuss the importance of writing in language development.

Writing preserves language across generations. Though speech is primary, writing enables documentation, learning, and record-keeping.

4. Why is language considered a living system?

Language evolves, adapts to social changes, and adopts new words and forms, making it a dynamic, living system.

## Unit II

5. Describe the role of the tongue in speech production.

The tongue controls articulation. It helps produce different sounds by touching the teeth, alveolar ridge, and palate.

6. What are voiced and voiceless sounds? Give examples.

Voiced sounds use vibrating vocal cords (e.g., /b/), while voiceless ones do not (e.g., /p/).

7. Explain the classification of consonants.

Consonants are classified by 'place' (bilabial, dental), 'manner' (plosive, nasal), and 'voicing' (voiced/voiceless).

8. Mention three speech organs and their functions.

Lungs supply air; vocal cords produce voice; lips and tongue articulate different sounds.

## Unit III

9. Define phoneme and give an example.

A phoneme is the smallest sound unit that changes meaning. For example, /b/ and /p/ in “bat” and “pat.”

10. Explain the difference between free and bound morphemes.

Free morphemes stand alone (e.g., \*book\*), while bound morphemes (e.g., \*-ed\*) attach to other forms.

11. What is the role of morphology in language?

Morphology helps understand how words are formed and how meaning changes through affixes.

12. Differentiate between inflectional and derivational morphemes.

Inflectional morphemes show tense, number, etc. (e.g., \*walked\*), while derivational ones change word class (e.g., \*happy → happiness\*).

#### Unit IV

13. Define syntax with examples.

Syntax is the arrangement of words in sentences. “He eats an apple” is correct syntax; “He eat apple” is not.

14. How does word order affect sentence meaning?

Word order determines grammatical roles. “Dog bites man” vs. “Man bites dog” have different meanings.

15. What is connotative meaning?

Connotative meaning is the emotional or cultural association with a word. \*Home\* may suggest comfort beyond just a building.

16. Why is semantics important?

Semantics helps understand word meaning, ambiguity, figurative language, and interpretation in context.

## Unit V

### 17. What is sociolinguistics?

Sociolinguistics studies how language varies based on society, including region, class, gender, and context.

### 18. Explain the concept of code-switching.

Code-switching is switching between two or more languages or dialects in the same conversation, often based on situation.

### 19. How does language reflect culture?

Language carries cultural values, idioms, and expressions. It reflects how people think and interact within their communities.

### 20. What is the difference between dialect and register?

Dialect is a regional/social language variety; register is the level of formality depending on the situation (e.g., academic vs. casual).

## V. Essay Questions and Answers

### Unit I

#### 1. Discuss the main theories of the origin of language.

The following theories try to explain how language began:

- a) Bow-wow Theory mimicking natural sounds.
  - b) Pooh-pooh Theory Emotive interjections
  - c) Ding-dong Theory Natural correspondence between sound and meaning.
- These theories are speculative, but they highlight the complexity of language origins.

#### 2. Explain the importance of language in human society.

Language helps in communication, transmitting culture, forming identity, and social coordination. It builds human connections, shapes thought, and influences societal development.

## Unit II

3. Describe the major organs of speech and their roles.

Organs like the lungs (airflow), vocal cords (voicing), tongue (articulation), lips (consonants), and palate (resonance) play key roles in producing speech sounds.

4. Explain the classification of English speech sounds.

Sounds are divided into vowels and consonants. Consonants are classified by:

Place of articulation (bilabial, alveolar)

Manner (plosive, nasal)

Voicing

Vowels depend on tongue position and lip rounding.

## Unit III

5. Discuss the importance of phonology in language analysis.

Phonology studies how sounds function within a language. It includes phonemes, stress, intonation, and rules for sound change. It helps learners distinguish minimal pairs and understand pronunciation patterns.

6. Explain the concept of morphemes and their types.

A morpheme is the smallest meaning-carrying unit. There are four types of Morpheme.

Free Morpheme (e.g., book) Bound Morpheme (e.g., -s) Inflectional Morpheme (e.g., -ed for past tense) Derivational Morpheme (e.g., un-, -ness) Morphology helps build vocabulary and grammar understanding.

## Unit IV

7. Differentiate between syntax and semantics with examples.



Syntax deals with sentence structure (word order), while semantics is about meaning. “Colourless green ideas sleep furiously” is syntactically correct but semantically nonsensical.

8. How is meaning created in language?

Meaning comes from Denotation (literal meaning) Connotation (emotional association) and Context. Semantic rules help avoid ambiguity and misinterpretation.

Unit V

9. Explain how language varies in society.

Language changes with region, class, gender, and occupation. Dialects, accents, and code-switching show how people adapt speech to fit their identity or audience.

10. Discuss the interrelation of language, society, and culture.

Language reflects social values and cultural practices. It is shaped by and shapes identity, group behavior, traditions, and worldviews. A change in society often results in language change and vice versa.

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