

Language and Society (CL2.203)
Monsoon 2021

End Sem Exam

Time : 3 hours

Max. Marks: 30

Roll No: _____

Day, Date: Thursday, November 2, 2021

List the languages you are proficient in _____

Note : *You are free to refer to books and other reference material. Copying of any sort or consultation with anyone will be penalized severely.*

Q1. How do you think Chomsky's notion of 'competence' and Dell Hymes notion of 'communicative competence' differ? Draw out the difference using an illustration from your own linguistic background (language(s) you know and use). **[5 marks]**

Q2. Diglossia is a condition wherein two distinct varieties of a language or two languages co-exist which are used for distinct social domains. Ferguson's article <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/00437956.1959.11659702> describes the notion of diglossia and its social/linguistic properties. Please check on the list of the properties given in the article, think of your language's standard variety and some of its dialects. Do you think there could be diglossic situation that you had not noticed. Alternatively, do you think that the clear demarcation of the functions that the two varieties (H and L) that Ferguson mentions in his article is really that clear or would it more often be fuzzy? Use your own examples to make the case. Would it be 'diglossia' if it is not very clear functional demarcation of the two varieties? **[7 marks]**

Q3. (a) Can language's role in education in a multilingual society increase inequalities? Research shows that bilingual education and inclusion of minority languages in education is beneficial. However, there is always a resistance to it. What do you think are the primary reasons for this and who do you think resist most? **[3+3 marks]**

Q3. (b) Taking forward the issues raised in Q3, what do you think is the existing situation in India so far as medium of instruction is concerned? Is there a gap between the language policy on medium of instruction and existing practices. If yes, then why? **[4 marks]**

Q3. (c) Mother tongue is considered to be most beneficial as a medium of instruction. In India, English is a commonly accepted medium of instruction. Discuss using examples from your life on the benefits of mother tongue education and the disadvantages that it might create. [3 marks]

Q4. (a) Can a language be 'sexist'? If yes, then how? [2 marks]

Q4. (b) Are there communities where in certain situations, *men and women have different ways of speaking that could be deemed different languages*? Can you think of any such usages (not necessarily different language but different vocabulary, phrases etc) in your own language? [3 marks]