

Language and Society (CL2.203)
Monsoon 2022
End Sem Exam

Time : 3 hours

Max. Marks: 70

Roll No: _____

Day, Date: Thursday, November 24, 2022

✓Q1(a). "A language is a dialect with an army and a navy". This statement is attributed to Weinreich, 1945 who mentioned it in a lecture in 1945. Explain the statement and its need. (5 marks)

✓Q1(b). What are 'Regional dialects' and 'social dialects'? How are they different from the Standard language. Describe the process for identifying regional dialects. (2+4+4 marks)

Q2. Differentiate, using suitable examples, between (4x5 marks)

- ✓(a) Chomsky's notion of 'competence' and Dell Hymes notion of 'communicative competence'.
- ✓(b) Metaphorical code switching and situational code switching
- ✓(c) Dialect and register
- ✓(d) Restricted and elaborate codes.
- ✓(e) Co-ordinate and Compound bilingualism.

Q3. Mr Sudhakar is opening a primary school in an area where four communities speaking different languages (A, B, C, D) live. The prospective students of the school are children who are bi/multilinguals not necessarily all speaking the same languages. There is a link language, the dominant language of the region (language B), that all communities use to interact with each other. Not all children, however, acquire the link language before joining the school. If you were in Mr Sudhakar's place, what would you choose as the medium of instruction in your school? (10 marks)

Options

- (i) Children's mother tongues
- (ii) The dominant language (link language) of the region/community
- (iii) An international language which may also be the language for higher levels of education

✓Q4. 'Any community that has two different languages is diglossic'. Comment on this statement bringing out the differences in H and L varieties in diglossia. (5 marks)

Q5. Language change occurs over a period of time. Thus, it appears difficult to observe. However, Labov pointed out that language change can be readily observed. Using Labov's Martha's vineyard study please show how is it possible? (8 marks)

✓Q6. The linguistic relativity hypothesis (also known as Sapir Whorf hypothesis) posits that a language's structure influences the way its speakers view the world. Explain what is meant by it and how far scholars have found it to hold true. (7 marks)

Q7. What do the following headlines tell us about general assumptions about social roles? Do the lexical choices in certain expressions stereotype male and female roles in a household? (5 marks)

WALL STREET MOTHERS, STAY-HOME FATHERS: As Husbands Do Domestic Duty, These Women Are Free to Achieve. (New York Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/08/us/wall-street-mothers-stay-home-fathers.html>, accessed July 2, 2014)

BREAKING DAD: THE STAY-AT-HOME LIFE: Think tech jobs are booming? Visit a playground on a weekday afternoon and observe the newest wave of the American workforce: the stay-at-home dad. (Gentlemen's Quarterly, <http://www.gq.com/life/mens-lives/201311/stay-at-home-dad-fatherhood>, accessed July 2, 2014)

A STAY-AT-HOME DAD NOT WORTH 50K, INTERNET SAYS: (Good Morning America, <http://gma.yahoo.com/stay-home-dad-not-worth-50k-internet-says-021629639-abc-news-parenting.html>, accessed July 2, 2014)

BEING MR. MOM: Stay-at-Home Dads on Tough, Full-Time Job. (ABC News Nightline, <http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/nightline-fix-abc-news/being-mr-mom-stay-home-dads-tough-full-154633088.html>, accessed July 2, 2014)

STAY-AT-HOME DADS, BREADWINNER MOMS AND MAKING IT ALL WORK: The next time you see a father out shopping with his kids, you might need to check your assumptions. (NPR, <http://www.npr.org/2013/05/15/180300236/stay-at-home>

(Source of the above headlines Wardaugh et al pg 332-3)