

International Institute of Information Technology - Hyderabad
Academic Year 2025-26 (Monsoon Semester)

LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY [CL2.203]

End Semester Exam

[QUESTION BOOKLET]

Max. Time: 3 Hrs

Max. Marks: 100

Roll No: _____ Programme: _____ Date of Exam: _____

Room no: _____ Seat No: _____ Invigilator's Signature: _____

Note:

- Submit both Question booklet and Answer booklet.
- Answer PART I in the Question booklet and remaining questions in the Answer booklet.
- No extra questions to be attempted where choice is given.
- No clarifications will be given during the exam.
- Your answers should reflect relevant readings and classroom discussions.
- All the best!

PART I [5+10+10 = 25 Marks]

1. State True or False [5 marks]

(Write clearly "T" for True and "F" for False)

- _____ Diglossia always requires bilingual speakers.
- _____ Social class can influence pronunciation patterns in a community.
- _____ A creole typically emerges in multilingual contact situations for trade.
- _____ Women generally use more standard forms than men.
- _____ Code-switching always signals lack of proficiency.
- _____ Language contributes to the construction of our social identity.
- _____ Language shift can be reversed through strong institutional support.
- _____ Ethnicity never influences language choice.
- _____ Registers vary according to the level of formality and context.
- _____ Linguistic accommodation is a conscious process in all cases.

2. Match the following [10 marks]

Column A

- i. Status Planning []
- ii. Corpus Expansion []
- iii. National Language []
- iv. Language Maintenance []
- v. Prestige Planning []
- vi. Standardisation []
- vii. Language Shift []
- viii. Corpus Planning []
- ix. Vernacularisation []
- x. Official Language []

Column B

- a. A symbol of identity for a nation
- b. Developing a writing system or orthography
- c. Efforts to keep a language from declining
- d. Adding new vocabulary for modern needs
- e. Choosing a language for official functions
- f. Movement towards using local languages in education
- g. One community gradually adopts another language
- h. Increasing the social value of a language or variety
- i. Creating uniform rules of grammar and spelling
- j. Selecting languages for administrative use

3. Fill in the blanks [10 marks]

- a. A variety used in formal, official, or public contexts is often called the _____ variety.
- b. The process through which a community gradually stops using its heritage language is known as _____.
- c. When speakers adjust their speech to sound more like their interlocutor, it is called _____.
- d. A language that has official support from institutions has high _____.
- e. A situation where two distinct varieties are used for different functions is termed _____.
- f. The variety spoken most naturally and casually by a speaker is known as the _____.

- g. A situation in which two or more languages compete for national or official status often arises in _____ societies.
- h. The argument that language shapes habitual thought but does not determine it completely is known as linguistic _____.
- i. A group of people who share linguistic norms and patterns is called a _____.
- j. The linguistic behaviour that signals politeness, solidarity, or involvement is often more strongly associated with _____ speakers in many communities.

PART II [15+5+5 = 25 marks]

A. You are given three excerpts from a sitcom conversation between six friends in a coffee shop (original, paraphrased dialogues). For each excerpt, answer the following questions separately: [3 x 5 = 15 marks]

1. Identify two adjacency pairs in the conversation. (2 marks)
2. Explain one example of turn-taking behaviour. (1 mark)
3. Identify one instance of preference organisation (preferred or dispreferred response) and explain why. (2 marks)

EXCERPT 1 (Coffee Shop – Monica, Rachel, Chandler)

Monica: I finally cleaned the whole apartment this morning.

Rachel: Wow, the *whole* place?

Monica: Yes! Even the top shelves.

Chandler: So... you cleaned things no human eye has ever seen?

EXCERPT 2 (Apartment – Monica, Chandler)

Monica: Did you finish the recipe for the cookbook?

Chandler: Yeah, I emailed it to you this morning.

Monica: Thanks! And... did you eat the last slice of pie?

Chandler: (pause) Maybe.

Monica: Chandler!

Chandler: Okay, yes. I'm sorry—it was calling to me.

EXCERPT 3 (Coffee Shop – Ross, Monica, Chandler)

Ross: Did you guys see my dinosaur lecture video?

Monica: I watched the first five minutes.

Chandler: I watched enough to know that dinosaurs *still* don't excite me.

- B. Why is transcription an important element of Conversation Analysis? Is it relevant today? Explain. [3 + 2 marks]
- C. Choose one: [5 marks]

- (i) Share from personal experience how and why misunderstandings arise in interactions even with people you know well. Are the factors same when there is misunderstanding with people you hardly know?

OR

- (ii) Imagine you must collect language data from a community whose language is on the verge of extinction. How will you go about it as a sociolinguist researcher?

PART III [5 x 4 = 20 marks]

Choose to answer any five questions highlighting 3 significant points for each. Give examples.

1. How do women and men differ in their use of prestige forms?
2. Explain *social networks* and their role in language change.
3. Describe the difference between *referential* and *affective* functions of language.
4. Explain *elaborated* and *restricted* codes.
5. Which age-group influence language change faster? How?
6. What is metaphorical switching?
7. What is a linguist's role in language planning?

PART IV [3 x 10 = 30 marks]

Choose to answer any three questions in 15-20 sentences. Give examples wherever necessary.

1. Discuss the concepts of convergence and divergence within Speech Accommodation Theory.
2. Analyse the role of politeness strategies in maintaining social relationships.
3. Discuss how social factors such as class, gender, age, and ethnicity influence language variation. Provide suitable examples.
4. Explain the phenomenon of language maintenance and shift. Discuss the factors that support each, using real-world community examples.
5. Describe the process of language planning taking the cases of any two nations. Explain the situation in India.
6. Describe the ethnography of communication framework given by Dell Hymes for a communicative event of your choice.