

Monsoon 2025

Introduction to Linguistics – 1 Mid-semester question paper

Total Marks - 70

1 Papago Problem - [5 marks]

Listed below are the singular and plural noun forms from Papago. State the rule for pluralization. Formulate the rules to account for the derivation of 'tails'.

Singular	Plural
bana	baabana 'coyote'
kuna	kuukuna 'husband'
tiho	tiitiho 'cave'
sona	soosona 'base'
naaka	naanaka 'ear'
toona	tootona 'knee'
piha	piipiha 'penis'
tini	tiitini 'mouth'
bahi	baabhai 'tail'
paga	paapaga 'hole'
tima	tiitima 'heel'

2. Child Language - [5 marks]

Examine the data from the child language given below:

Set A

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| i. [bek] 'peg' | ii. [gi] 'key' |
| iii. [gɪm] 'come' | iv. [di] 'tea' |
| v. [bæk] 'bag' | vi. [bæt] 'bad' |
| vii. [bæt] 'pad' | viii. [bæt] 'bat' |

Set B

- i. [dut] 'juice'
- ii. [don] 'John'
- iii. [deidi] 'lady'
- iv. [dait] 'light'
- v. [deidi] 'lazy'

a. Account for the changes in consonants in the child's pronunciation (informally). How many sounds in the adult vocabulary are realized as [d] in the child's pronunciation?

b. Can you predict how the child is likely to pronounce the word 'Sally' ?

3. Finnish Problem – [5 marks]

Consider the following data from Finnish:

[ku:zi] 'six'	[kudot] 'failures'
[kate] 'cover'	[katot] 'roofs'
[kade] 'envious'	[ku:si] 'six'
[li:sa] 'Lisa'	[madon] 'of a worm'
[maton] 'of a rug'	[ratas] 'wheel'
[li:za] 'Lisa'	[radan] 'of a track'

- a. Do [s] and [z] represent different phonemes?
- b. Are [d] and [t] different phonemes?
- c. Are the sounds in each pair in complementary distribution?
- d. Are they in free variation?
- e. State the distribution of each phone.

4. Maninka Problem - [5 marks]

In the African language Maninka, the suffix /-li/ has more than one pronunciation. It is similar to the derivational suffix /-ing/ in English, which when added to the verb 'cook', makes it a noun as in 'I love her cooking'. Now consider the data from Maninka.

bugo	'hit'	bugoli	'hitting'
dila	'repair'	dilali	'repairing'

don	'come in'	donni	'coming in'
dumu	'eat'	dumuni	'eating'
gwen	'chase'	gwenni	'chasing'

- What are the two forms of the suffix meaning 'the - ing'?
- Can you predict which phonetic form will occur? If so, state the rule.
- What are the '-ing' forms for the following verbs?

da	'lie down'	famu	'understand'
men	'hear'	sunogo	'sleep'

5. Walbiri [5 marks]

Walbiri is a language spoken in central Australia. The words below illustrate two suffixes meaning 'to' and 'hither', each of which has two manifestations. Posit uniform phonemic representations for these two suffixes together with a phonological rule that accounts for their phonetic variation.

Kantaku 'to the woman'

Waluku 'to the fire'

Kaliki 'to the boomerang'

Katiki 'to the man'

Kanuku 'to the boy'

Napaku 'to the water'

Yantani 'come hither'

Yanini 'to come hither'

Yanunu 'came hither'

Pankatyani 'ran hither'

Wilpipaditani 'emerged hither'

Tuulpununu 'jumped hither'

6. [10 marks]

- What do you understand by -etic and -emic units in language? Discuss with reference to Phonetics and Phonology.
- What is cluster simplification? Discuss with examples from your language.
- Discuss 'assimilation' as a phonological process.
- Discuss the difference between Broca's and Wernicke's aphasia.

7 Explain the following features with examples [5*5]

- a) arbitrariness
- b) semanticity
- c) duality of patterning
- d) structure dependence
- e) recursion

8 Give the phonetic symbols for the following sounds [10*1]

- a) labiodentals nasal
- b) voiceless bilabial fricative
- c) voiced dental fricative
- e) back close/high unrounded vowel
- f) front open-mid unrounded vowel
- g) glottal stop
- h) velar nasal
- i) voiced velar fricative
- j) palatal nasal
- k) voiced retroflex stop