



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
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DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS

UGRC 134: LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY (3 CREDITS)
BSC. SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS, 2018/2019

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS (70 MARKS)

TIME ALLOWED: TWO AND A HALF (2.5) HOURS

1. State any **three (3)** advantages that face-to-face speech has over internet communication. (3 marks)
2. Using any **two (2)** suitable examples from English, identify **two (2)** negative effects of internet communication on written English. (2 marks)
3. Identify the names given to each of the two versions of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis and show the major distinction between them. (4 marks)
4. Mention any **two (2)** languages that fall under each of the following language families in Ghana.
 - a. Mande
 - b. Gur
 - c. Kwa(3 marks)
5. What is the difference between register and style? (1 mark)
6. Explain briefly the phatic function of human language. (2 marks)
7. Which of Hockett's (1960) design features of human language suggests that there is no iconic relationship between a sound and its meaning? (2 marks)
8. We, as humans, are capable of communicating about things that are not immediately present (spatially or temporally) and even things that do not exist, because our language possesses a property called..... (1 mark)
9. State any **two (2)** differences between a standard language and a vernacular. (2 marks)
10. How different is a sociolinguistic variable from a social variable? For each of them, provide **two (2)** examples to support your answer. (4 marks)
11. State **three (3)** ways in which, according to Lakoff (1973), women's speech differs from that of men. (3 marks)

12. Why are there more English-lexifier pidgins and creoles than non-English lexifier ones? (2 marks)
13. As a sociolinguist and an expert of language planning, you are approached by the government of the fictional multilingual country, Bemba, to propose one of the existing seventeen (17) indigenous languages as a national language. Explain **one (1)** main factor that would influence your choice of any of the languages. (3 marks)
14. State and explain briefly the **four (4)** steps that should be considered in establishing a language as a national language. (8 marks)
15. State any **three (3)** factors that may necessitate code-switching. (3 marks)
16. Explain the term *lingua franca*. Identify any **two (2)** *lingua francas* in Ghana. (4 marks)
17. When do we say a diglossic language situation exists in a speech community? Provide an example-to-support-your-answer. (3 marks)
18. Explain 'semantic generality' as a consequence of the restricted vocabulary of Pidgin English. (2 marks)
19. 'Serialization' is a structural characteristic of Pidgin English that shows that apart from the lexifier/superstrate language which contributes the vocabulary of the pidgin, the substrate provides its syntax. Using only **one (1)** example, demonstrate this feature of Pidgin English. (2 marks)
20. Explain **three (3)** factors that can contribute to language maintenance. (6 marks)
21. a) At what point can we say that a language is dead? (1 mark)
 b) State the only language that is known to have been successfully revived after being effectively dead for about 1700 years. (1 mark)
 c) Explain briefly any circumstance that could lead to the sudden death of a language. (2 marks)
22. Using two (2) dialects from any language community, explain briefly the term 'mutual intelligibility' as used in Linguistics. (3 marks)
23. Since 1925, when an official language in education policy was enforced in Ghana's education system, the policy has seen several changes. State any **three (3)** causes that have been attributed to such changes. (3 marks)