

SEAT NO. CT-21090

NED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
FIRST YEAR(BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED PHYSICS/ COMPUTER SCIENCE &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)
SPRING SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS 2022
BATCH 2021

Time: 3 Hours

Dated:16-08-2022

Max.Marks:60

Functional English - IIS-104

Instructions: Please attempt ALL questions in the answers sheet. Your answers will be assessed on language (grammar and vocabulary) and mechanics, coherence and cohesion, completeness, relevance, and format.

Q1. Read the passage on 'How humans evolved language' below and answer the following questions.

[CLO 2] 12

Thanks to the field of linguistics we know much about the development of the 5,000 plus languages in existence today. We can describe their grammar and pronunciation and see how their spoken and written forms have changed over time. For example, we understand the origins of the Indo-European group of languages, which includes Norwegian, Hindi and English, and can trace them back to tribes in eastern Europe in about 3000 BC. So, we have mapped out a great deal of the history of language, but there are still areas we know little about. Experts are beginning to look to the field of evolutionary biology to find out how the human species developed to be able to use language. So far, there are far more questions and half-theories than answers.

We know that human language is far more complex than that of even our nearest and most intelligent relatives like chimpanzees. We can express complex thoughts, convey subtle emotions and communicate about abstract concepts such as past and future. And we do this following a set of structural rules, known as grammar. Do only humans use an innate system of rules to govern the order of words? Perhaps not, as some research may suggest dolphins share this capability because they are able to recognise when these rules are broken.

If we want to know where our capability for complex language came from, we need to look at how our brains are different from other animals. This relates to more than just brain size; it is important what other things our brains can do and when and why they evolved that way. And for this there are very few physical clues: artefacts left by our ancestors don't tell us what speech they were capable of making. One thing we can see in the remains of early humans, however, is the development of the mouth, throat and tongue. By about 100,000 years ago, humans had evolved the ability to create complex sounds. Before that, evolutionary biologists can only guess whether or not early humans communicated using more basic sounds.

Another question is, what is it about human brains that allowed language to evolve in a way that it did not in other primates? At some point, our brains became able to make our mouths produce vowel and consonant sounds, and we developed the capacity to invent words to name things around us. These were the basic ingredients for complex language. The next change would have been to put those words into sentences, similar to the 'protolanguage' children use when they first learn to speak. No one knows if the next step – adding grammar to signal past, present and future, for example, or plurals and relative clauses – required a further development in the human brain or was simply a response to our increasingly civilised way of living together.

Between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago, though, we start to see the evidence of early human civilisation, through cave paintings for example; no one knows the connection between this and language. Brains didn't suddenly get bigger, yet humans did become more complex and more intelligent. Was it using language that caused their brains to develop? Or did their more complex brains start producing language?

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re questions lie in looking at the influence of genetics on brain and language development. Are there genes mutated and gave us language ability? Researchers have found a gene mutation that occurred between 10,000 and 100,000 years ago, which seems to have a connection with speaking and how our brains control mouths and face. Monkeys have a similar gene, but it did not undergo this mutation. It's too early to say much influence genes have on language, but one day the answers might be found in our DNA.

Mark the following statement as True or False: [6]

- Experts fully understand how the Hindi language developed.
- The grammar of dolphin language follows the same rules as human language.
- Brain size is not the only factor in determining language capability.
- The language of very young children has something in common with the way our prehistoric ancestors may have spoken.
- When people started using complex language, their brains got bigger.
- The role of genetics in language capacity is not yet clear. **T**

Answer the following questions: [6]

- How is human language more complex than any other living things' language?
- Which field(s) of study can help us understand the development of language use in humans?
- What is the purpose of the author in the text?

2. Write a précis of the passage given in Q1. Also, give a suitable title.

[CLO 2] 06

3. Write a paragraph of 100-120 words on ANY ONE of the following topic. Underline the topic sentence.

[CLO 3] 06

- Cross-cultural Awareness
- My favourite movie character
- An ideal vacation

4. Using brainstorming technique, write an essay of 250-300 words on ANY ONE of the following topic. Underline the thesis statement and topic sentences.

[CLO 3] 12

- Authenticity of social media
- Importance of foreign languages
- Effects of climate change

5. Assume that you are assigned the responsibility of arranging a guest speaker session at your department. Write an invitation letter to an expert from your respective field to deliver a session on specific topic. Provide all the necessary details such as your introduction, details of your department at university, and information about the topic, date, time, venue, etc. in your letter.

[CLO 3] 12

6. Write a short report on the significance of internship and professional training for second to final year students. Also discuss the current available opportunities and challenges faced by the student. Conclude your report with recommendations.

[CLO 3] 1

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