

## Exercise 23

The common belief of some linguists that each language is a perfect vehicle for the thoughts of the nation speaking it is in some ways the exact counterpart of the conviction of the Manchester school of economics that supply and demand will regulate everything for the best. Just as economists were blind to the numerous cases in which the law of supply and demand left actual wants unsatisfied, so also many linguists are deaf to those instances in which the very nature of a language calls forth misunderstandings in everyday conversation, and in which, consequently, a word has to be modified or defined in order to present the idea intended by the speaker: "He took his stick-no, not John's, but his own." No language is perfect, and if we admit this truth, we must also admit that it is not unreasonable to investigate the relative merits of different languages or of different details in languages. ( 155 words)

1.The primary purpose of the passage is to

- (A) analyze an interesting feature of the English language
- (B) refute a belief held by some linguists
- (C) show that economic theory is relevant to linguistic study
- (D) illustrate the confusion that can result from the improper use of language
- (E) suggest a way in which languages can be made more nearly perfect

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply

2. The misunderstanding presented by the author in the passage is similar to which of the following?

A X uses the word "you" to refer to a group, but Y thinks that X is referring to one person only.

B X mistakenly uses the word "anomaly" to refer to a typical example, but Y knows that "anomaly" means "exception."

C X uses the word "bachelor" to mean "unmarried man," but Y mistakenly thinks that bachelor means "unmarried woman."

3.In presenting the argument, the author does all of the following EXCEPT

- (A) give an example

- (B) draw a conclusion
- (C) make a generalization
- (D) make a comparison
- (E) present a paradox

## 阅读 2:

讲解：此文乃非常典型的新老观点对比型的文章。此类文章一般在开头提出一个老观点，接着 GRE 阅读作者一般对反对老观点。在此，开头的观点为“一些语言学家普遍认为语言是一种完美的载体”。但是后来作者通过分析得出“没有语言是完美的”。因此属于典型的新老观点对比性。

**Q1: 文章主旨?**

解析：根据以上分析可知，正确答案 B;

**Q2: 原文歧义是由于指代不明，因此正确选项 A;**

**Q3: 一下那种论证方式文中没有提及?**

解析：A B D 选项应该是显而易见的；大家可能对 **make a generalization** 存疑，在这里，它指“做推广”，i.e. 由一个事物能够推出另一个事物。从文中我们可以看到 **No language is perfect, and if we admit this truth, we must also admit that ...**, 所以 C 选项文中有提及；正确答案 E。因为通篇都是在否定，不存在 **paradox**。

Currently, there are two models of solar activity. The first supposes that the Sun's internal motions (caused by rotation and convection) interact with its large-scale magnetic field to produce a dynamo, a device in which mechanical energy is converted into the energy of a magnetic field. In short, the Sun's large-scale magnetic field is taken to be self-sustaining, so that the solar-activity cycle it drives would be maintained with little overall change for perhaps billions of years. The alternative explanation supposes that the Sun's large-scale magnetic field is a remnant of the field the Sun acquired when it formed, and is not sustained against decay. In this model, the solar mechanism dependent on the Sun's magnetic field runs down more quickly. Thus, the characteristics of the solar-activity cycle could be expected to change over a long period of time.

(140 words)

4. Which of the following statements about the two models of solar activity, as they are described in the passage, is accurate?

- (A) In both models cyclical solar activity is regarded as a long-lived feature of the Sun, persisting with little change over billions of years.
- (B) In both models the solar-activity cycle is hypothesized as being dependent on the large-scale solar magnetic field.
- (C) In one model the Sun's magnetic field is thought to play a role in causing solar activity, whereas in the other model it is not.
- (D) In one model solar activity is presumed to be unrelated to terrestrial phenomena, whereas in the other model solar activity is thought to have observable effects on the Earth.
- (E) In one model cycles of solar activity with periodicities longer than a few decades are considered to be impossible, whereas in the other model such cycles are predicted.

Like most other coastal towns in Norway, the town of Stavanger was quiet and peaceful until the early 1960's, when it became Norway's center for offshore oil exploration. Between then and now, violent crime and vandalism in Stavanger have greatly increased. Stavanger's social problems probably resulted from the oil boom, since violent crime and vandalism have remained low in coastal towns in Norway that have had no oil boom.

5. Which of the following most accurately describes the method of reasoning employed in the argument?

- (A) Arguing that a circumstance is not a precondition for a phenomenon on the grounds that the phenomenon sometimes occurs where the circumstance is not present
- (B) Arguing that a circumstance is a cause of a phenomenon on the grounds that the phenomenon has not occurred where the circumstance is not present
- (C) Arguing that a particular thing cannot have caused a phenomenon because that thing was not present before the phenomenon occurred
- (D) Attempting to establish a claim by arguing that the denial of the claim is inconsistent with the observed facts
- (E) Attempting to establish that certain circumstances that would have had to occur for a particular explanation to be correct could not have occurred

Q4. B

Q5. B

I. 文章结构:

首句, solar activity 有两种模式;

The first supposes that 介绍第一种模式 内部运动和 large-scale magnetic field 相互作用, 产生的作用能转化为磁场能。in short, large-scale magnetic field 可自我维持-->solar activity cycle maintains little change over years;

The alternative explanation supposes that 介绍第二种模式 large-scale magnetic field 为 remnant,不可自我维持 -->依赖于此的 solar mechanism runs down quickly --> solar activity cycle 可能 change over long years.

Q4 选项:

A. 主语 cyclical solar activity,即文中的 solar activity cycle。选项描述的是第一种模式;

B. 从文章结构的整理中, 可以看出, solar activity cycle 对 large-scale magnetic field 为依赖关系;

C. 参考 B;

D. 文章没有提到 solar activity 和 terrestrial phenomena 的关系;

E. impossible/predicted. 文中未提到。

II.

Q5. B 选项, 定位, a circumstance --> oil exploration in the town; a phenomenon --> crime and vandalism have greatly increased.

-----该段分析来自 JudyHan817

Modern archaeological finds can still contribute much to the study of ancient literature. For example, forty years ago a survey of the early Greek dramatist Aeschylus' plays would have started with The Suppliant Women. Many factors internal to the play, but perhaps most especially the prominence of the chorus, led scholars to consider it one of Aeschylus' earlier works. The consensus was that here was a drama truly reflecting an early stage in the evolution of tragedy out of choral lyric. The play was dated as early as the 490's B.C., in any event, well before Aeschylus' play The Persians of 472 B.C. Then, in 1952, a fragment of papyrus found at Oxyrhynchus was published. The fragment announced that Aeschylus won first prize with his Danaid tetralogy, of which The Suppliant Women is the opening play, and defeated Sophocles in the process. Sophocles did not compete in any dramatic contest before 468 B.C., when he won his first victory. Hence, the Danaid tetralogy must be put after 468 B.C. (169 words)

6. According to the passage, in the absence of definite

knowledge concerning the dates of composition of ancient literary works, literary historians do which of the following when trying to establish the chronology of an author's work?

- (A) Make assumptions about a single work's date of composition if such assumptions would not seriously affect interpretations of other works by the same author.
- (B) Draw inferences concerning the date of a work's composition based on evidence internal to that work and on the author's other works.
- (C) Ignore the date of a work's composition which is supplied by archaeological research when literary factors internal to the work contradict that date.
- (D) Refrain from speculation concerning a work's date of composition unless archaeological finds produce information concerning it.
- (E) Estimate the date of a work's composition without attempting to relate it to the author's development as an artist.

首句, **TS**.现代考古学可以 **contribute to** 古代 **literature study**. 那么, 下面的例证肯定应该是展开这一点;

**for example**,开始例证。1) **then** 之前, 推论 **the suppliant women** 的产生年代 **490 B.C.**, 根据是, **internal factors-chorus** 和对比其他作品, **the Persian** 2) **then** 之后, 考古学发现, **the suppliant women** 作为 **tetralogy** 的一部分, 应该作于 **468 B.C.**之后。

**Q6 提干: how do literary historians establish the chronology of an author's work?**

选项:

- 1) 扫了五个选项的第一个词组, 决定最后看 **C ignore**,先看 **A,B,D,E**;
- 2) **A**, 对比关联 **other works interpretation**,错误;
- 3) **B**, **then** 之前部分, 正确;
- 4) **D**,否定了 **then** 之前部分;
- 5) **E**, 未提吧;
- 6) **C**,说反了。

-----该段分析来自 **JudyHan817**

As Gilbert White, Darwin, and others observed long ago, all species appear to have the innate capacity to increase their numbers from generation to generation. The task for ecologists is to untangle the environmental and biological factors that hold this intrinsic capacity for population growth in check over the long run. The great variety of dynamic behaviors exhibited by different populations makes this task more difficult: some

populations remain roughly constant from year to year; others exhibit regular cycles of abundance and scarcity; still others vary wildly, with outbreaks and crashes that are in some cases plainly correlated with the weather, and in other cases not.

To impose some order on this kaleidoscope of patterns, one school of thought proposes dividing populations into two groups. These ecologists posit that the relatively steady populations have "density-dependent" growth parameters; that is, rates of birth, death, and migration which depend strongly on population density. The highly varying populations have "density-independent" growth parameters, with vital rates buffeted by environmental events; these rates fluctuate in a way that is wholly independent of population density.

This dichotomy has its uses, but it can cause problems if taken too literally. For one thing, no population can be driven entirely by density-independent factors all the time. No matter how severely or unpredictably birth, death and migration rates may be fluctuating around their long-term averages, if there were no density-dependent effects, the population would, in the long run, either increase or decrease without bound (barring a miracle by which gains and losses canceled exactly). Put another way, it may be that on average 99 percent of all deaths in a population arise from density-independent causes, and only one percent from factors varying with density. The factors making up the one percent may seem unimportant, and their cause may be correspondingly hard to determine. Yet, whether recognized or not, they will usually determine the long-term average population density.

In order to understand the nature of the ecologist's investigation, we may think of the density-dependent effects on growth parameters as the "signal" ecologists are trying to isolate and interpret, one that tends to make the population increase from relatively low values or decrease from relatively high ones, while the density-independent effects act to produce "noise" in the population dynamics. For populations that remain relatively constant, or that oscillate around repeated cycles, the signal can be fairly easily characterized and its effects described, even though the causative biological mechanism may remain unknown. For irregularly fluctuating populations, we are likely to have too few observations to have any hope of extracting the signal from the overwhelming noise. But it now seems clear that all populations are regulated by a

mixture of density- dependent and density-independent effects in varying proportions.

7.The author of the passage is primarily concerned with

- (A) discussing two categories of factors that control population growth and assessing their relative importance
- (B) describing how growth rates in natural populations fluctuate over time and explaining why these changes occur
- (C) proposing a hypothesis concerning population sizes and suggesting ways to test it
- (D) posing a fundamental question about environmental factors in population growth and presenting some currently accepted answers
- (E) refuting a commonly accepted theory about population density and offering a new alternative

8. Select the sentence in the passage that presents the author's attitude toward the dichotomy discussed in the second paragraph.

9.Which of the following statements can be inferred from the last paragraph?

- (A) For irregularly fluctuating populations, doubling the number of observations made will probably result in the isolation of density-dependent effects.
- (B) Density-dependent effects on population dynamics do not occur as frequently as do density-independent effects.
- (C) At present, ecologists do not understand any of the underlying causes of the density-dependent effects they observe in population dynamics..
- (D) Density-dependent effects on growth parameters are thought to be caused by some sort of biochemical "signaling" that ecologists hope eventually to understand.
- (E) It is sometimes possible to infer the existence of a density-dependent factor controlling population growth without understanding its causative mechanism.

For the following question, consider each of the choices separately and select all that apply

10. According to the passage, all of the following behaviors have been exhibited by different populations

- A roughly constant population levels from year to year
- B regular cycles of increases and decreases in numbers
- C erratic increases in numbers correlated with the weather

该文来自考研英语阅读：  
[参考译文]

正如吉尔伯特·怀特、达尔文以及其它科学家很久以前观察的那样，所有的物种都具有一种天生的能力来一代一代地增加它们种群的数量。生态学家的使命就是调查清楚环境和生态因素长期以来是如何控制这种致使种群增长的内在能力的。由于不同种群所表现出来的动态行为是如此多样化，致使这项任务显得非常困难：有些种群长期以来大致保持不变；有些表现出周期性的繁荣和稀少；而还有些变化非常大，时而暴增，时而锐减，这种增减有时显然与气候有关，而有时又与气候无关。

为了赋予这些千变万化的模式一种规律，科学家中的一种流派提出将所有种群划分为两类。这部分生态学家假设：那些相对稳定的种群具有和“种群密度相关”的增长参数；也就是说，这些种群的出生率、死亡率以及迁徙规律都大大地依赖于种群的密度。那些变化很大的种群具有“种群密度无关”的增长参数，其生存率随环境因素的变化而变化，并且以一种完全独立于种群密度的方式进行波动。

这种二分法有它的用途，但如果死板地应用也会引发一些问题。一方面，没有任何种群在所有的时间里完全只受“种群密度无关”因素的影响。无论出生、死亡率以及迁徙规律相对于长期的平均值的变化是如何的剧烈和不可预测，如果没有种群密度无关因素，从长远来看，这个种群的数量将无限地增加或减少(从而阻碍了得失正好相消的奇迹的发生)。换一句话讲，也许种群内平均 99% 的死亡都由“种群密度无关”因素导致的，只有 1% 由随种群密度变化而变化的因素所导致。导致这 1% 的因素也许看起来并不重要，而且它们的影响也相应地很难确定。但是，无论认识到或没有认识到，它们都将对该种群密度长期的平均值起决定作用。

为了能够理解生态学家们研究的性质，我们可以把种群密度相关对增长参数的影响视为一种“信号”，生态学家试图分离并解释这些“信号”，这种“信号”将使种群中个体数量从相对低的数值增长或从相对高的数值减少，同时，密度无关因素将作为一种“噪音”来影响种群的动态变化。对于那些数量保持相对不变，或者以一种循环周期进行摆动的种群而言，这种“信号”将会相当容易提取特征并描述它的影响，即使我们仍不知道作为原因的生物机制。对那些变化不规则的种群，我们可能因为观察太小而无法从繁多的“噪音”中提取那一信号。但是，现在显得很清楚的是，所有种群都受“种群密度相关”和“种群密度无关”两类因素在不同程度上的共同制约。

Q7 A

Q8 第三段首句

Q9 E



## Q10 ABC

文章结构:

首段, 提出问题 -> ecologists 需要解决的问题 (untangle the factors that hold) -> 指出这个 task 的困难之处 (variety of dynamic of different populations), 例证之;

第二段, 旧方法, 两分法。两种 growth parameters: density-dependent/density-independent;

第三段, 否定旧方法。原因, for one thing...put another way...;

第四段, 新方法, a mixture of two effects. 1) density-dependent effect 为需要 isolate and interpret 的 'signal', 其主要作用为让 population 不要太高也不要太低; density-independent effect 为 'noise' 2) for populations remain constant or oscillate around repeated cycles, signal 易 identify, 尽管, 机制不明; for population irregularly fluctuated, 不易从 noise 中 extract 出 signal 3) 总结, but 引导出结论, 两个 effect 共同作用于 population 数量。

Q7 主旨题, 文章讨论两个 effect, 介绍并比较。扫完五个选项前三四个词组, 选定 A;

Q8 dichotomy 快速定位;

Q9 :

D 选项, 最大的错误就是 d d effect 是作为 signal, 而不是 caused by some sort of biochemical "signaling"

E 选项, 定位 'But it now seems clear that all populations are regulated by a mixture of density-dependent and density-independent effects in varying proportions.';

A 选项, fluctuating...density-dependent, 错误, 应该对应 density-independent;

B 选项, do not occur as frequently as 错误, 两者同等地位;

C 选项, any 错, 只是一部分不明。

Q10 首段最后的例证部分, 正好三点。 -----该段分析来自 JudyHan817