

FLASHCARDS FOR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Topic 1: Introduction

1.	The study of the function, structure, and history of languages and the communication process in general.	linguistics
2.	The language that is spoken by the most people in the world today as a native, or first, language.	Mandarin Chinese
3.	The language that is the most world wide in its distribution. It is an official language in 52 countries as well as many small colonies and territories. In addition, 1/4 to 1/3 of the people in the world understand and speak it to some degree. However, it is only the third most common language in terms of the number of native speakers.	English
4.	Regions of the world that have unusually high densities of different native languages today.	New Guinea and the Caucasus Mountains north of Turkey and Iran (also Native California in the past)
5.	The fraction of all languages in the world that are no longer spoken by children.	about half
6.	The percent of languages in the world that are primitive in the sense of not having a system of sounds, words, and sentences that can adequately communicate the content of culture.	0%
7.	The number of languages that have added words to modern English.	at least 240
8.	The percent of all living languages that change over time.	100%
9.	The kinds of cultures that have languages with extremely large vocabularies.	cultures with complex, diverse economies and advanced technologies

Topic 2: What is Language?

1.	The term for sounds or things which have meaning given to them by the users. The meaning can not be discovered by mere sensory examination of their forms. They are abstractions created by people.	symbols
2.	The most important kind of human symbolic communication system. (Hint: all societies have such a communication system even though they may be illiterate.)	language
3.	A term referring broadly to patterned verbal behavior used by humans.	speech
4.	A specific set of rules for generating speech.	language
5.	A variant form of a language. (Hint: it usually sounds somewhat different.)	dialect
6.	A dialect associated with a geographically isolated speech community. An example is the Texas in contrast to the Midwestern American dialect.	regional dialect

7.	A dialect spoken by a speech community that is socially isolated from others. These kinds of dialects are mostly based on class, ethnicity, gender, age, or particular social situations. "Black English" in North America is an example.	social dialect
8.	The term for a simplified, makeshift language that develops to fulfill the communication needs of people who have no language in common but who need to occasionally interact for commercial and other reasons. Such languages combine a limited amount of the vocabulary and grammar of the different languages. People who use these makeshift languages also speak their own native language.	pidgin
9.	The linguistic term for what Chinook was. (Hint: it was used by Indians from different cultures on the Northwest Coast of North America to communicate with each other.)	pidgin
10.	The general term for a pidgin language that has become the mother tongue of a population. In Haiti, for example, a French-African pidgin became this sort of language. It is spoken in that nation today by the majority of the population as their principle or only language.	creole
11.	The phenomenon in which different dialects of a language or different languages are spoken by a person in different social situations. People who do this may quickly switch back and forth between dialects or languages, depending on the person they are talking to at the time.	diglossia
12.	The linguistic term for what Gullah was. (Hint: it was used on the outer banks of Georgia and South Carolina by former African slaves. It evolved from a form of pidgin English.)	creole
13.	The term for a common social dialect spoken by many African Americans.	Black English or Ebonics

Topic 3: Analysis of Language

1.	The part of language analysis that is concerned with the sounds of a language.	phonology
2.	The part of language analysis that is concerned with how the sounds are used to make sense. It consists of morphology and syntax.	grammar
3.	The smallest unit of sound that can be altered to change the meaning of a word. These units of sound do not have meaning by themselves. The initial sound in the words <u>b</u> it, <u>k</u> it, <u>s</u> it, and <u>p</u> it are examples.	phoneme
4.	The number of phonemes that English usually uses.	40
5.	The kinds of verbal sounds that the San languages of southwest Africa use that are not found in English or most other languages elsewhere. (Hint: the language of the <i>Ju/'hoansi</i> people uses these sounds.)	click sounds used as consonants
6.	The study of how sounds are combined by language into larger units called morphemes.	morphology
7.	The general term for a standardized set of rules that determine how words should be combined to make sense to speakers of a language. Grammar consists of these rules and morphology.	syntax

8.	The smallest combination of sounds that have meaning and cannot be broken into smaller meaningful units. The English words “cow” and “boy” are examples. Words can be one or more of these units.	morpheme
9.	The general term for a morpheme that has meaning but can not stand alone. The prefix “dis” in the English word “disable” is an example.	bound morpheme
10.	The primary way in which Latin derived languages, such as Spanish, French, and Italian change the meaning of a sentence.	by changing the endings of words (i.e., suffixes).
11.	The primary way in which the meaning of a sentence is changed in English.	by changing the word order
12.	The primary way in which the meaning of a sentence is changed in Mandarin Chinese.	by changing the tone of syllables in words
13.	The number of languages in which speakers must memorize all possible sentences that can be created. In other words, simply learning the rules for creating sentences is not adequate to be able to speak and understand other people using these languages.	zero

Topic 4: Learning Language

1.	The way most linguists believe that children learn their native language.	primarily by listening to and trying to communicate with adult speakers
2.	The age at which most children have learned to use about three words consisting of single morphemes, such as “eat”, “mom”, and “more”.	one
3.	The kind of syntax error that young children learning English as their native language often make with the past tense of verbs (e.g., “give” becomes “gived”, “take” becomes “taked”, “eat” becomes “eated”).	over regularize the common rule (i.e., inappropriately apply it to irregular words)
4.	The term for what happens when learning a second language can be affected by the patterns of the first language (e.g., blending of phonemes from the different languages).	linguistic interference

Topic 5: Language and Thought Processes

1.	The early 20th century idea that language predetermines what we see in the world around us. In other words, we see the real world only in the terms and categories of our language. This hypothesis was later mostly rejected by anthropologists.	Sapir-Whorf hypothesis
2.	The field of anthropology that tries to learn about how people in different cultures categorize and interpret things in their environment. The focus is on emic categories.	ethnoscience

3.	The term referring to a classification of things according to some external system of analysis brought in by a visitor to another society. (Hint: this is the approach of biology in using the Linnaean classification system to define new species. It assumes that ultimately, there is an objective reality and that is more important than cultural perceptions of it.)	etic category
4.	The term referring to a classification of things according to the way in which members of a society classify their own world. In other words, this is the way their culture and language divide up and interpret reality.	emic category
5.	A term referring to sexual identity as male or female.	gender

Topic 6: Hidden Aspects of Communication

1.	The term for auxiliary communication methods used by people talking to each other (e.g., variations in tone and character of voice along with non-verbal forms of communication).	paralanguage
2.	The part of non-verbal communication consisting of gestures, expressions, and postures. (Hint: it is also known as body language.)	kinesics
3.	The term for the kind of paralanguage that includes interaction distance and other culturally defined uses of space.	proxemics
4.	The age at which North American children begin to master the subtle cultural aspects of time, such as when one should arrive at a party or a business appointment.	about 12
5.	The common attitude in North America in regards to adults touching each other except in moments of intimacy or formal greeting (hand shaking or hugging).	It is discouraged, especially for men
6.	The general functions and purposes of clothing around the world.	protection from the elements, modesty, supernatural protection, and communication of status, intentions, and other messages
7.	The linguists general term for the distance our bodies are physically apart while talking with each other. (Hint: this is an aspect of proxemics.)	interaction distance