

Quiz #1

Ling 101 (Bruening)

September 14, 2006

Use the scan sheet to answer all 25 questions. Please return your test with your answer sheet. Be sure to indicate your name, course number, and section (listed below) on your scan sheet.

Course number: 101					
Section 16	Sachie Kotani	8–9:15	Section 19	Gina Cook	8–9:15
Section 17	Sachie Kotani	11–12:15	Section 20	Gina Cook	11–12:15
Section 18	Sachie Kotani	12:30–1:45	Section 21	Gina Cook	12:30–1:45

1 True-False

Fill in (a) if the sentence is true, (b) if it is false.

1. Old English could not express abstract concepts.
2. All normal humans acquire at least one language.
3. Eskimos have 400 words for snow.
4. All languages have subjects, objects, and verbs.
5. The mental grammar is capable of constructing and understanding an infinite number of sentences.
6. Someone who translates from one language to another is called a linguist.
7. Only human language has the property of *productivity*.
8. Warlpiri is a primitive language that cannot express modern concepts.
9. A speaker of a language that does not distinguish green from blue cannot see the difference.
10. English is in danger of being displaced by the languages of immigrants.
11. Red-green colorblind people still know that the words *red* and *green* refer to complementary colors.

2 Multiple Choice

12. All humans acquire a language without instruction as infants. Which of the following complex activities is also acquired in such a manner?
 - (a) swimming
 - (b) algebra
 - (c) walking
 - (d) tying shoes
 - (e) riding a bike

13. The fact that all languages are acquired at the same rate by infants shows:
- (a) That all languages are equally complex and equally learnable.
 - (b) That other languages are even easier than English.
 - (c) That some languages have more rules than others.
 - (d) That parents all over the world spend a lot of time teaching grammar.
 - (e) none of the above
14. What is the definition of *grammatical*?
- (a) consistent with the rules learned in English class
 - (b) consistent with the rules of the mental grammar
 - (c) inconsistent with the rules of the mental grammar
 - (d) not using slang or jargon
 - (e) none of the above
15. Which of the following is a *descriptive* statement about language?
- (a) You shouldn't say *ain't*.
 - (b) Ending a sentence with a preposition is very bad style.
 - (c) A person who says *Does you think that...?* is completely ignorant.
 - (d) Some varieties of English use *youse* as a second person plural pronoun.
 - (e) none of the above
16. Which of the following is a *prescriptive* statement about language?
- (a) Some varieties of English use *me* as the possessive pronoun instead of *my*.
 - (b) You shouldn't say *ain't*.
 - (c) Some people say *Does you think that...?*
 - (d) Some varieties of English drop the word 'be' in some contexts (e.g., *He chillin'*).
 - (e) none of the above
17. If a sentence is *ungrammatical* it is:
- (a) not a true statement
 - (b) impossible to understand
 - (c) inconsistent with what is taught in school
 - (d) inconsistent with the mental grammar
 - (e) none of the above
18. Which of the following is a true statement about color terms in the world's languages?
- (a) All languages have equivalent terms for colors.
 - (b) Languages differ greatly in their terms for colors but there is a coherent pattern.
 - (c) All languages but English have a term for "grue."
 - (d) The Eskimo languages have only one color term, "snow color."
 - (e) none of the above

19. A language that has only three basic color terms always has:
- (a) black (dark), white (light), and red
 - (b) yellow, blue, and red
 - (c) white, blue, and green
 - (d) black (dark), white (light), and “grue” (green and blue)
 - (e) red, green, and blue
20. Which of the following facts suggests that the particular language we speak does not determine how we think?
- (a) A language can borrow words for new concepts from another language.
 - (b) A person can invent a new concept and make up a name for it.
 - (c) Language is actually quite vague: opening a can and opening a door involve very different actions.
 - (d) Speakers of languages that lack words for ‘right’ and ‘left’ can still think in those terms.
 - (e) all of the above
21. The system of the grammar that deals with sound combinations is called:
- (a) morphology
 - (b) syntax
 - (c) semantics
 - (d) phonology
 - (e) none of the above
22. *Natural language* is defined as:
- (a) language that is acquired without instruction by humans
 - (b) any language that can be used by humans
 - (c) language that is created for a specific purpose
 - (d) language that can be learned by animals
 - (e) none of the above
23. Non-native speakers of English sometimes say ungrammatical things like **We lifted carefully the piano*. Why?
- (a) They like to use malapropisms.
 - (b) They speak with an accent.
 - (c) They like to break the rules, because they’re trying to break down the social order.
 - (d) They have not fully acquired the mental grammar that an English speaker has.
 - (e) none of the above
24. Which of the following is a true statement about word order in the world’s languages?
- (a) All languages are SVO.
 - (b) All languages are SOV.
 - (c) Some languages lack verbs.
 - (d) Some languages permit any order of S, V, and O.
 - (e) There are nine possible orders of S, V, and O (3 x 3).
25. The Linguistic Relativity Hypothesis says that:
- (a) The language that you speak will give you a particular accent.
 - (b) If you speak a primitive language, you will not be able to understand abstract concepts.
 - (c) The language that you speak can determine how you think.
 - (d) All languages are related.
 - (e) Some languages are evolutionarily superior and will dominate or obliterate other languages.