

DENA 2417
DENB 2417

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 2004

COURSE I AND COURSE II

PAPER 8 (h) (i) AND B4 LINGUISTIC THEORY

Friday, 27 May, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

2005

Time Allowed – Three hours

Answer *three* questions. You should pay careful attention in your answers to the precise terms of the quotations and questions.

Trinity Term 2005

Do not turn over until told to do so.

Answer *three* questions. You should pay careful attention in your answers to the precise terms of the quotations and questions.

1. What are the principal parts of speech, and by what criteria are they assigned to words?
2. 'The main task of linguistic theory must be to develop an account of linguistic universals that will not be falsified by the actual diversity of languages and will be sufficiently rich and explicit to account for the rapidity and uniformity of language learning' (NOAM CHOMSKY, 1965). Appraise the extent to which this agenda has been realised in subsequent work.
3. What is meant by the term 'parameters and principles'? How does this approach to grammar compare with earlier approaches?
4. Movement is the last remaining transformation of the Chomskyan grammatical tradition. Discuss whether or why it is still needed in syntactic theory.
5. Explain X-bar theory.
6. Explain how functional relations relate to constituent structure.
7. What is stress, and how is its placement determined?
8. What evidence is there that speech is composed of syllables, each with a particular internal structure?
9. Explain how meanings change historically.
10. **EITHER** a) Explain Grice's account of how conversations work (or may fail to work).

OR b) Outline the differences between the Gricean approach to analysing conversation and the Relevance Theory approach.
11. What is the 'literal meaning' of an expression, and how does it differ from the '*actual* meaning'?

12. What is structuralism? (Your answer should be restricted to linguistics.)
13. In what ways do languages change? Why?
14. **EITHER a)** What criteria are used in grouping languages into language families?

OR b) By what criteria are two dialects determined to be in different languages?
15. 'Closer studies of the social context in which language is used show that many elements of linguistic structure are involved in systematic variation' (WILLIAM LABOV). Explore this statement, with discussion of some relevant examples.
16. What do creoles reveal about the nature of language?
17. Does a language without affixation have morphology?