



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
Institute of Linguistics



September 2008 Resit Examinations

Name: _____ I.D. _____ Faculty: _____

Course: _____ Year: _____

LIN1010 - Introduction to Linguistics I

TEST

1st September 2008

09.15 – 11.15

You have 2 hrs. to answer all the questions. Pay careful attention to the instructions given. Answer on the test sheets themselves, writing on the back where necessary. Before handing in your sheets, make sure you have entered your personal details above.

- 1a. [20%] (a) Explain what is meant by **double articulation** as a defining characteristic of human languages. (b) Explain why it is necessary for the relationship between the word and the referent in human languages to be **arbitrary**. Give examples to **illustrate both parts** of your answer.

1 b. [5%] Explain why ‘language’ and ‘speech’ are not synonymous terms in linguistics.

2. [15%] Mark the correct answer in the boxes on the right:

a.	For Saussure, ‘arbitrariness’ means that:		
	the physical shape of a linguistic sign is unrelated to its meaning		
	speakers are free to decide what meaning a linguistic sign can have		
	the shape of the sign is an iconic representation of its meaning		
b.	Morphs are:		
	minimal units of lexical analysis		
	units which realize morphemes		
	freely interchangeable elements of language		
c.	According to Saussure “langue” means:		
	the particular language of a given society		
	the particular biologically-given skill for linguistic competence		
	the way an individual speaks		
d.	An example of a sociolinguistic variable is:		
	a language		
	a native speaker		
	age		
e.	Because of linguistic relativity:		
	people from different cultures cannot really understand each other		
	the lexical structure of each language is unique		
	it is not possible to establish universal linguistic characteristics		

3(i). [12%] Write **T** (true) or **F** (false) in the space next to the letter in each of the following:

a) _____

A syntagmatic relation is a relation between various word forms while a paradigmatic relation is a relation between different words within a phrase, clause or sentence.

b) _____

Assuming a descriptive approach to linguistics means telling people what is right and what is wrong with their grammar.

c) _____

Only one of the following sentences is syntactically unacceptable:

1. The giant stone went for a walk in the park
2. My sister plays the guitar well but doesn't know how to play an instrument.
3. Who did you meet yesterday?
4. With whom did you go to the cinema?
5. I did not thought he would come.

d) _____

Syntax is the study of the structure of phrases and sentences.

3 (ii). [18%] The phrase structure rules below can generate the sentence: *A talented musician played the guitar passionately in the hall.* Applying the rules and lexicon entries below, draw the phrase structure tree for this sentence in the box below. Remember that round brackets indicate optionality.

PHRASE STRUCTURE RULES	LEXICON
S → NP VP PP	Det: <i>a, the</i>
VP → V NP ADV	N: <i>hall, musician, guitar</i>
NP → Det (A) N	V: <i>played</i>
PP → P NP	A: <i>talented</i>
	ADV: <i>passionately</i>
	P: <i>in</i>

Draw the phrase structure tree here:

4. [[15%] Mark each sentence as true (T) or false (F):

		TRUE / FALSE
1	'tree' is a particular term	
2	Given our solar system, the denotation of 'sun' is equivalent to its reference	
3	'desk' is an antonym of 'furniture'	
4	'small' and 'tiny' are antonyms	
5	'table' is a synonym of 'furniture'	
6	Reference and denotation involve a relationship with elements in language and elements in the world	
7	The position of the speaker relative to the object talked about is crucial in deixis	
8	'apple' is a hyponym of 'fruit'	
9	Sense always involves a relation between two elements in language.	
10	Meaning sometimes involves a relationship between two elements	

5. [15%] In not more than 100 words state which is the most important aspect of Relevance Theory and explain its importance to pragmatics.
