



Hamma Lakhdar University of El-Oued

Faculty of Arts and Languages
Department of English Language
Semester 1: 2020/2021



Module: Linguistics

Level: 2nd year LMD

Module convenor: Nour Elhouda Toumi Date: 02/03/2021, 60 mins

Student's full name:..... Group:.....

Task one(07 points)

Decide whether these statements are true or false.

1. Themes of importance in the Greek antiquity include the origins of language, parts of speech and the forms of nouns and verbs. **(False)**
2. Aristotle favoured natural meaning over conventional meaning. **(False)**
3. Greek studied whether the form and meaning of words are connected by convention. It is called, iconicity. **(False)**
4. William Jones is regarded the founder of descriptive Linguistics. **(False)**
5. In modern Linguistics, shift of focus changed from the idea that language can be viewed as a system to concerns of historical changes of languages. **(False)**
6. Franz Boas and Edward Sapir argued that all languages must not be forced into the mould of European languages for their description. **(True)**
7. Bloomfield used authentic utterances in the scientific study of languages. **(True)**

Task two(05 points) Please answer the following questions briefly (short-answer questions).

1. What was the major concern of Franz Boas and Edward Sapir?
To gather information on the languages and cultures of native Americans
2. Franz Boas and Edward Sapir saw languages as intimately connected with?
with the way of life and thought of its speakers
3. What was the primary concern of Leonard Bloomfield?
To establish Linguistics as a science
4. Leonard Bloomfield was influenced by?
Behavioural Psychology/ Behaviourism
5. What played little part in the approach of Leonard Bloomfield to Linguistics?
Semantics/ Meaning.

Task three(08 points)

Please read the following quotation carefully. Then, answer the questions underneath.

“Ferdinand de Saussure (1916/1966) drew a fundamental distinction between what he called langue and parole... It is the child’s innate faculté [...] that enables him to register and develop a linguistic system [...] on the basis of scattered observations of actual linguistic behaviour [...]. Other aspects of the study of language can be seriously undertaken only on the basis of an adequate account of the speaker’s linguistic intuition, that is, on the basis of a description of his langue. [...] Our discussion departs from a strict Saussurian conception in two ways. First, we say nothing about [his] semantic system of [signs]... Second, our conception of langue differs from Saussure’s conception [...] Once we reformulate the notion of langue in these terms, we can hope to incorporate into its description a full account of syntactic structure...” (Chomsky, 1963, pp: 327-328)

1. What language faculty Chomsky is talking about?(1 score)

Language Acquisition Device (LAD)

2. What semantic system Chomsky is talking about and what are his views towards this system “we say nothing about his semantic system of signs”? (explain)(2 scores)

Saussurian semantic system deals with meaning as a sign of a combination of the signifier (acoustic image) and the signified (concepts), two of which are purely psychological in nature. Chomsky endorsed Saussure’s distinction between langue and parole.

3. In what way does Chomsky’s conception of langue (Competence) differ from Saussure’s?(3scores)

a. Langue is social (social fact, collective consciousness)/ Competence (langue) is individual, innate, biological.

b. Langue is static/ Competence is generative.

c. Creativity is related to parole/ Creativity is a feature of linguistic competence/I-language.

4. Depending on the above quotation, complete the following statement: (2 scores)

According to Chomsky, the notion of structure belongs to **langue**, whereas for Saussure syntax belongs to **parole**.

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.” – Les Brown