

LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600 034

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION – ENGLISH LITERATURE

FOURTH SEMESTER – APRIL 2010

EL 4953 - SOCIOLINGUISTICS & DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Date & Time: 24/04/2010 / 9:00 - 12:00 Dept. No.

Max. : 100 Marks

PART A

I. Write short notes on any EIGHT of the following: 8 x 5 = 40

1. Four types of functions of question tags according to Coates and Lakoff.
2. The roles of interruptions, minimal responses and overlaps in the discourse of men and women.
3. Interrelationship between politeness and gender.
4. Respect system as seen in terms of honorifics, hedges and question tags in language use.
5. Sociolinguistics and sociology of language.
6. Style-switching and code-mixing.
7. Pidgin and Creole.
8. Cross-cultural, inter-cultural and multicultural communication.
9. Lexical differences in English language among its various users worldwide.
10. Salient features of Whorfian Hypothesis.

PART B

II. Answer the following in about 400 words each: 4 x 15 = 60

11. “The world is presented in a kaleidoscopic flux of impressions which has to be organized by our minds - and this means largely by the linguistic systems in our minds”. Discuss the above statement with the view of Whorfian hypothesis.

Or

If the world view and behavior of people are affected so severely by the structure of their language, and languages have different structures, is the understanding the nuances of cross-cultural communication a need of the hour for the modern world? Substantiate your answers.

12. Illustrate the dominance and difference approaches to understand better the variables in the language of women and men.

Or

“When it comes to cross-sex conversation, women use fewer stigmatized and non-standard variants, since they show greater sensitivity to socially evaluative linguistic features”. Discuss the statement with illustrations drawn from women’s use of language.

13. Illustrate the ethnography of communication as a paradigm to evaluate the efficaciousness of a discourse.

Or

Orwell says that if humans cannot form the words to express the ideas underlying a revolution, then they cannot revolt. Illustrate the theory of linguistic relativity of Whorf with references to any fiction or film.

14. Analyze the conversation below:

(The following conversation takes place at a garden party in London during the Georgian reign.)

LIZA : How do you do, Mrs. Higgins?
MRS. HIGGINS : Quite right: I'm very glad indeed to see you.
MRS. EYNSFORD HILL: [*introducing*] My daughter Clara and My son Freddy.
LIZA : How do you do?
MRS. HIGGINS : [*at last, conversationally*] Will it rain, do you think?
LIZA : The shallow depression in the west of these islands is likely to move slowly in an easterly direction. There are no indications of any great change in the barometrical situation.
FREDDY : Ha! ha! how awfully funny!
LIZA : What is wrong with that, young man? I bet I got it right.
MRS. EYNSFORD HILL: I'm sure I hope it won't turn cold. There's so much influenza about. It runs right through our whole family regularly every spring.
LIZA : My aunt died of influenza: so they said. [*in the same tragic tone*] But it's my belief they done the old woman in.
MRS. HIGGINS: Done her in?
LIZA : Y-e-e-e-es, Lord love you! Why should she die of influenza? She come through diphtheria right enough the year before. I saw her with my own eyes. Fairly blue with it, she was. They all thought she was dead; but my father he kept ladling gin down her throat till she came to so sudden that she bit the bowl off the spoon.
MRS. EYNSFORD HILL: Dear me!
LIZA : What call would a woman with that strength in her have to die of influenza? What become of her new straw hat that should have come to me? Somebody pinched it; and what I say is, them as pinched it done her in.
MRS. EYNSFORD HILL: What does doing her in mean?
HIGGINS : Oh, that's the new small talk. To do a person in means to kill them.
MRS. EYNSFORD HILL: Do you mean that he drank?
LIZA : Drank! My word! Something chronic.
MRS. EYNSFORD HILL: How dreadful for you!
LIZA : Not a bit. It never did him no harm what I could see. But then he did not keep it up regular. And always more agreeable when he had a drop in. When he was out of work, my mother used to give him fourpence and tell him to go out and not come back until he'd drunk himself cheerful and loving-like. There's lots of women has to make their husbands drunk to make them fit to live with. You see, it's like this. If a man has a bit of a conscience, it always takes him when he's sober; and then it makes him low-spirited. A drop of booze just takes that off and makes him happy.
