

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
SEMESTER II EXAMINATIONS, 1999-2000

SECOND ARTS: INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE
ID487: INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS
Unit Value: 1

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Time allowed: two hours

In Section A answer question 1 and three of the remaining four; in Section B answer one question.

SECTION A

1. Write a note on three of the following:
 - a) diglossia and its implications
 - b) modes of address as social signals
 - c) male and female speech acts
 - d) derivational and inflexional morphemes
2. Explain three of the following terms and, where appropriate, provide an example:
 - a) universal grammar
 - b) transitivity
 - c) sub-categorisation
 - d) componential analysis
 - e) semantic properties
3. Answer three of the following:
 - (a) What is a pro-drop language?
 - (b) Offer a definition of contrastive linguistics
 - (c) What do you understand by the term 'language shift'?
 - (d) Diagram the following sentence: 'The President will stay in a castle'.
4. Answer all three of the following:
 - (a) What do English smaller and German kleiner reveal about the relationship between the two languages?
 - (b) Why do Turkish plaz and French plage (both meaning 'beach') sound similar?
 - (c) Why does English allow phrases such as Sheba's queen and the queen of Sheba?

p.t.o.

5. Give a brief definition of **three** of the following, providing **three** examples in each case:
- (a) internal reconstruction
 - (b) external reconstruction
 - (c) analytic language forms
 - (d) agglutinating language forms
 - (e) fusional language forms

SECTION B (ESSAY)

(Answer **one** question in this section.)

- 6. What evidence is there to suggest that language is rule-governed? Discuss with examples.
- 7. Word order types in the languages of the world.
- 8. Discuss the case of Irish in the Nineteenth Century as an example of language shift.
- 9. Write an essay on the origin and formation of proper names. Illustrate with examples from different languages and discuss comparative features.
- 10. Why do languages change and who changes them? Are there laws and limitations governing the ways in which they change? Give an account of the processes involved in changing systems within language, explaining what is meant by the terms: sound law, lexical diffusion, chain shift.