



**Appendix V**  
**Past IntroLx Exam Papers**

**The University of Papua New Guinea**  
**Second Semester Examination – 2008**

Course Number: 4.11406  
Title of Paper: Introduction to Linguistics  
Sequence of Papers: One of One  
Time Allowed: 3 Hours plus 10 Minutes Reading Time

Instructions to Candidates: Follow Detailed Instructions in the Exam Paper  
Marking Scheme: The Value of Each Question Is Indicated

Aids To Be Provided by:

Students' Administration: Wall Clock

Linguistics Strand: Dictionary

Aids Candidates May Take into Examination Room: Pens, Rulers, Erasers, Correction Fluid, a Dictionary

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ID No.** \_\_\_\_\_

This exam has three parts: a section of multiple choice questions, a section of short answer questions, and a practical task section.

## **Part I: Multiple Choice Questions**

**(30 marks)**

**Instructions:** Select the best answer for **30 out of the 31** questions (1 mark each x 30 = 30 marks):

### **1. Language may be defined as**

- a. The expression of symbolic thought
- b. Symbolic thought expressed through structured serial interface of arbitrary sound symbols
- c. A combinatorial communication system based on sound
- d. A system of arbitrary vocal symbols
- e. A system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for communication

### **2. Symbols represent**

- a. Objects
- b. Ideas
- c. Relationships
- d. Arbitrary facts
- e. Ambiguous thoughts

### **3. Each symbol is**

- a. A particular form associated with a particular meaning
- b. An aural form associated with a particular meaning
- c. A visual form associated with a particular meaning
- d. An oral form associated with a particular meaning
- e. An ambiguous form associated with a particular meaning

### **4. Iconicity implies**

- a. A form suggestive of its meaning
- b. An ambiguous link between form and meaning
- c. An implied relationship between an ambiguous form and meaning
- d. That a particular visual form has a direct link to its meaning

### **5. The most important difference between human Language and other systems of animal communication based on sound is**

- a. Structure dependence
- b. Duality
- c. Cultural transmission
- d. Symbolic representation
- e. Creativity
- f. Discreteness
- g. Displacement

- 6. Duality is a defining feature of human language referring to its ability to**
- Create different meanings through different combinations of linguistic units
  - Refer to events removed in space and time
  - Differentiate meanings because of differences in aural forms
- 7. A variety of language that has noticeable differences in structure or vocabulary from other varieties is called**
- A dialect
  - An accent
  - An idiolect
  - A variation
  - Jargon
- 8. Individual variations in a person's use of language constitute**
- A dialect
  - An accent
  - An idiolect
  - A variation
  - Jargon
- 9. Dialects of the same language which can be understood by speakers of other dialects are called**
- Maxims
  - Ambiguous expressions
  - Mutually unintelligible
  - Mutually intelligible
- 10. The grammar of Language is made up of**
- Phonetics, syntax and semantics
  - Phonetics, morphology and syntax
  - Phonology, syntax and semantics
  - Phonology, morphology and semantics
- 11. Which of the following is NOT part of the human speech apparatus?**
- Glottis
  - Pharynx
  - Teeth
  - Nasal cavity
  - Oesophagus
- 12. There are different aspects of articulation to describe a consonant:**
- Manner, place, voicing aspects
  - Bilabial, alveolar, and palatal aspects
  - Lax/tense, front/back, close/open aspects

- d. Obstruent, sonorant, nasal aspects
- e. Plosive, fricative, affricate aspects

**13. The position of the tongue changes during the pronunciation of certain vowels. It occurs when pronouncing**

- a. [ɛ]
- b. [a]
- c. [i]
- d. [ai]
- e. [ʊ]

**14. \_\_\_\_\_ is determined by four aspects of pronunciation**

- a. Consonant quality
- b. Nasal quality
- c. Vowel quality
- d. Pitch and tone quality
- e. Obstruent quality

**15. The way in which a sound is made is called**

- a. Primary speech production
- b. Manner of articulation
- c. Phonemic sound quality
- d. Place of articulation

**16. The following sounds are affricates:**

- a. [t, d]
- b. [k, g]
- c. [ʃ, ʒ]
- d. [tʃ, dʒ]
- e. [s, z]

**17. Examples of bilabial consonants in English are**

- a. [f, v]
- b. [p, b]
- c. [l, n]
- d. [w, m]
- e. [θ, ð]

**18. The glottis is open when pronouncing**

- a. Voiced consonants
- b. Voiceless consonants

- c. Fricatives and plosives
- d. Nasals
- e. Liquid sounds

**19. The phonetic form of the word can be found when**

- a. The glottis is open
- b. The word is arbitrary
- c. Phonological rules are applied
- d. The glottis is closed
- e. Morphological structure is arbitrary

**20. Allophones are \_\_\_\_\_ sounds of a phoneme.**

- a. Distinctive
- b. Non-distinctive
- c. Assimilated
- d. Non-aspirated
- e. Neutralized

**21. Minimal pairs are used to find \_\_\_\_\_ phonemes.**

- a. Rhyming
- b. Small
- c. Meaningful
- d. Stressed
- e. Individual

**22. The words *win* and *thin* are minimal pairs because**

- a. All the phonemes are the same except one
- b. They rhyme
- c. They differ only in one sound in the same position
- d. The stress and tone is the same
- e. Both words are meaningful

**23. Find minimal pairs amongst these pairs of words:**

- a. [ʃeɪm], [feɪm]
- b. [tɪp], [pɪt]
- c. [meɪt], [mæɪt]
- d. [piəs], [pʌs]
- e. [fi:l], [li:f]

**24. A pair of phones is \_\_\_\_\_ if interchanging them results in change of word meaning**

- a. Allophones
- b. Contrastive

- c. Non-contrastive
- d. Variant
- e. Segmental

**25. Morphemes are**

- a. Pieces of words stored in our memory
- b. The smallest linguistic symbols
- c. Syllabic meanings
- d. Derivational affixes
- e. Inflectional suffixes

**26. The words *daughter, shorter, mortar, porter, sorter* and *water* are**

- a. Rhyming sequences of speech sounds
- b. Words with different meanings
- c. Minimal pairs
- d. A minimal set
- e. Distinctive phonemic sequences

**27. Speech sounds are**

- a. Sounds made with the help of the human speech mechanism
- b. Constituents of words
- c. Natural classes of sounds
- d. Produced in the vocal tract
- e. Parts of speech

**28. Words are**

- a. Minimal free forms
- b. Uninterruptible and mobile minimal free symbols
- c. Sequences of speech sounds
- d. A relative concept
- e. Elusive and arbitrary

**29. Syntax is**

- a. Rules of constructing grammatical sequences
- b. The rules of word formation
- c. The part of grammar dealing with the structure of words
- d. Rules of combining words into phrases and sentences
- e. Part of the grammar of every human language

**30. Morphology is**

- a. Part of syntax
- b. The rules of word structure and formation
- c. The rules of sound combination
- d. Phonotactics
- e. Part of the grammar of a language

**31. Natural classes of sounds are groupings of sounds based on**

- a. Their sound quality
- b. The common features they share
- c. The distinctive features of sounds
- d. The variation of sound quality
- e. The place of articulation

**Part II: Short Answer Questions (20 marks)**

**Instructions: Give 1-2 sentence answers to 10 of the following questions (2 marks each)**

- Q 1 How Does Linguistics Differ from Traditional Grammar?
- Q 2 What is the fundamental difference between the human language and other forms of communication based on sound?
- Q 3 Distinguish between synchronic and diachronic linguistics.
- Q 4 What 2 senses are vital for spoken and written communication?
- Q 5 What makes human voice distinct from other sounds we hear?
- Q 6 What is the defining feature of human language called *displacement*?
- Q 7 What are the stages in the Speech Chain? Why is speech production dependent on speech perception?
- Q 8 What is glottis, and what positions can it be in during speech?
- Q 9 Why is the tongue so vital in speech production that we sometimes refer to languages as ‘tongues’?
- Q 10 What is the difference between Consonants and Vowels?
- Q 11 What is the defining feature of human language called *duality*?
- Q 12 What is *onomatopoeia*? Give examples.
- Q 13 What is IPA?
- Q 14 Why is the knowledge of phonetic symbols useful to us?
- Q 15 Define the Concepts of Minimal Pair/Minimal Set. Give examples.



**Part III: Practical Tasks****(Total = 50 marks)**

Answer all questions. You need not copy the questions in the examination booklet, merely indicate the question numbers. The value of each question is 10 marks.

**Q 1** Can you read these sentences? Write them out in English alphabet:  
(2 x 5 = 10 marks)

weə dʒə liv]  
[ai wɔnə gəʊ hɔʊm]  
[wɔtʃə wɔnə du:]  
[hau dʒə noʊ]  
[dəʊntʃə θiŋk]

**Q 2** Transcribe: *book, share, language, syntax, morphology* (10 marks)  
2 marks Bonus: linguistic theory

**Q 3** These words come from the Lenakel language of Tanna, Vanuatu. Do the sounds [k] and [g] belong to different phonemes? Why? (10 marks)

[gən] *eat*                      [gəs] *bite*                      [kuri] *dog*                      [kən] *eat*  
[guri] *dog*                      [gɛsi] *pawpaw*                      [gahaw] *rat*                      [agar] *talk*  
[kahaw] *rat*                      [kəs] *bite*

**Q 4** Look at the following data from the Motu language (Central Province, PNG), then answer the questions below: (10 marks)

naitamu	<i>I saw you</i>	eitaia	<i>he saw him</i>
oitagu	<i>you saw me</i>	ohelai	<i>you sat down</i>
nahelai	<i>I sat down</i>	ekiri	<i>he laughed</i>
nakiri	<i>I laughed</i>		

- The morpheme meaning 'I' is: \_\_\_\_\_
- The morpheme **-mu** means: \_\_\_\_\_
- The morpheme meaning 'saw' is: \_\_\_\_\_
- If **ala** is a morpheme meaning 'kill', how would you say, 'you killed him'?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Q 5 True or False? Write ‘T’ or ‘F’ in the spaces provided (1 point each = 10 marks)**

1		A word is always bigger than a morpheme
2		Affixes are bound non-roots
3		The /-s/ plural morpheme in English has no allomorphs
4		The word ‘unrealistically’ contains 4 morphemes
5		Morphophonemics is phonological conditioning
6		Inflectional morphemes change only the grammatical meaning of words
7		Syllable is a unit of sound
8		Syllables usually contain only one vowel
9		Phonemes differentiate words
10		Phonotactics is the rules of combining sounds; sequential constraints

End of Exam!!!