i Exam information

WRITTEN EXAMINATION AUTUMN 2017

ENG2157 – Semantics and Pragmatics

4 hours

You are allowed to use 1 monolingual English dictionary.

The questions must be answered in English.

Answer Part I, ONE question from Part II, and ONE question from Part III.

If you want to include hand-drawn diagrams or truth-tables, then please use the additional sheets provided by the exam staff. Make sure you enter the correct question code on each sheet.

Part I carries 20% of the overall mark.

QUESTION 1

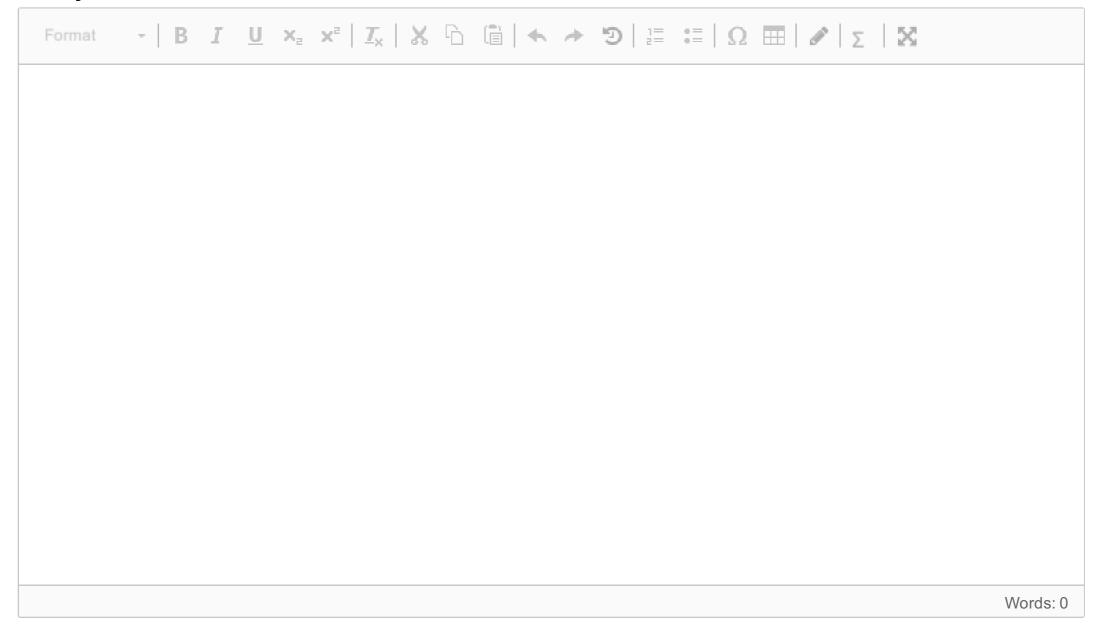
Discuss briefly ANY THREE of the following topics. Give English examples to illustrate your discussion.

- i. ambiguity and polysemy
- ii. truth and entailment
- iii. spatial deixis
- iv. illocutionary force
- v. The Principle of Optimal Relevance
- vi. the Language of Thought hypothesis

Part 1: answers here

Remember: write about THREE topics in this part.

Write your answers here...



Knytte håndtegninger til denne oppgaven?

Bruk følgende kode:

XXXXXXX

Part II carries 40% of the overall mark.

Answer ONE question from this part.

QUESTION 1

- a. Set out the central claims of the *referential* (or more properly, *denotational*) theory of meaning. You should explain what it says about i) proper names like *Noam Chomsky*; ii) nouns like *linguist*; and iii) noun phrases like *this linguist* and *a linguist*.
- b. What are the following problems for the denotational account? Discuss, giving examples.
- i. The problem of empty expressions
- ii. Frege's problem
- c) What is the definitional theory of word meanings? In your answer, provide definitions for bachelor and triangle.

OR

QUESTION 2

- a. Define validity (of an argument in logic).
- b. Explain the truth-table method for proving arguments valid, giving simple examples.
- c. Translate the following into Propositional Logic, analyzing in as much detail as possible, and giving a key for each one. Comment on any problems or difficulties with the translations.
- i. Amy has one or two bicycles.
- ii. It's not the case that Ben doesn't smoke.
- iii. John loves singing and playing the piano.
- iv. If it snows, Amy won't cycle to work.
- v. John is neither a vegan nor a vegetarian.
- vi. Ben walked to the university although it is raining, and so did Amy.

OR

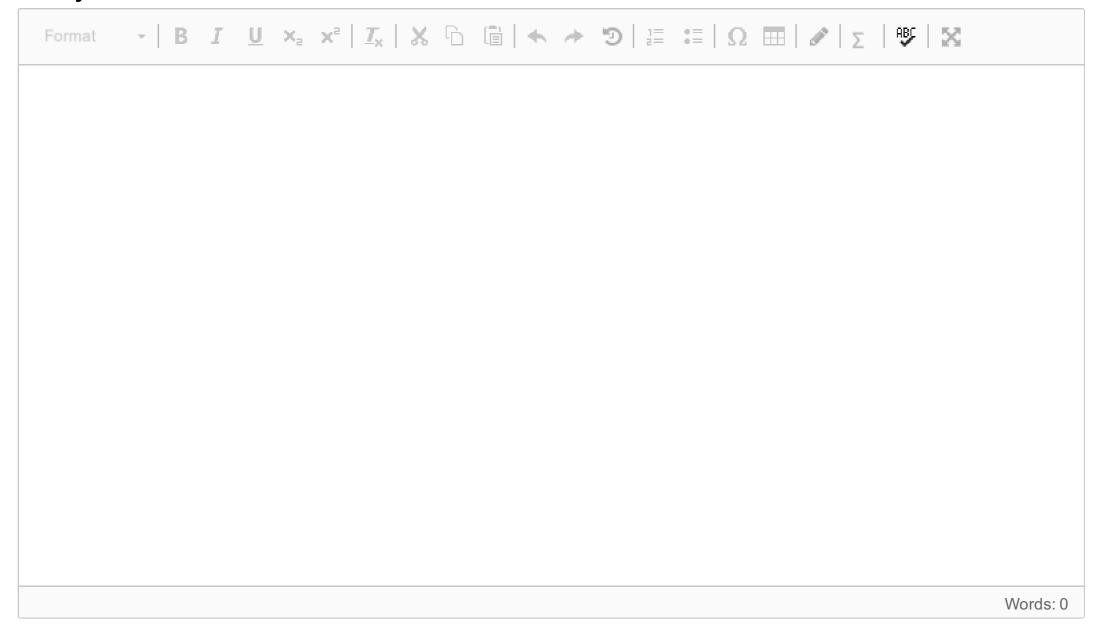
QUESTION 3

- a. Explain the difference between states and dynamic situations, giving examples.
- b. Set out the notion of *telicity* as it applies to situation types, giving examples.
- c. What are the situation types of the following? Set out linguistic tests that support your answer in each case.
- i. Oliver walked home.
- ii. John loves linguistics.
- iii. Amy and Ben got married.
- iv. Aiden went to dancing lessons and learned the foxtrot.
- v. Emma admired Mary's stamp collection.

Part II: answer here

Remember: answer only ONE question in this part!

Write your answer here...



Maks poeng: 0

Knytte håndtegninger til denne oppgaven?

Bruk følgende kode:



Part III carries 40% of the overall mark.

Answer ONE question from this part.

EITHER

QUESTION 1

- a) Explain the notions of face and Face Threatening Act in Brown and Levinson's theory of politeness.
- b) What strategies do speakers have for dealing with Face Threatening Acts, according to Brown and Levinson? Illustrate your answer with examples.
- c) What strategies are used in the examples below, and why?
- i. [Host, talking to a guest]: Have another cup of tea.
- ii. [Parent to child]. Let's clean up all this mess together, and afterwards you can play outside.
- iii. Professor A: Dr X was your student, wasn't he? Would you recommend him for the job as a linguistics lecturer that we are advertising?

Professor B: Well, he was always on time for tutorials, and he has good dress-sense.

OR

QUESTION 2

- a) Set out the essentials of Grice's theory of conversation.
- b) Explain how it may be applied to the examples below.
- i. A [watches B put skis on and immediately fall over]: Skilful!

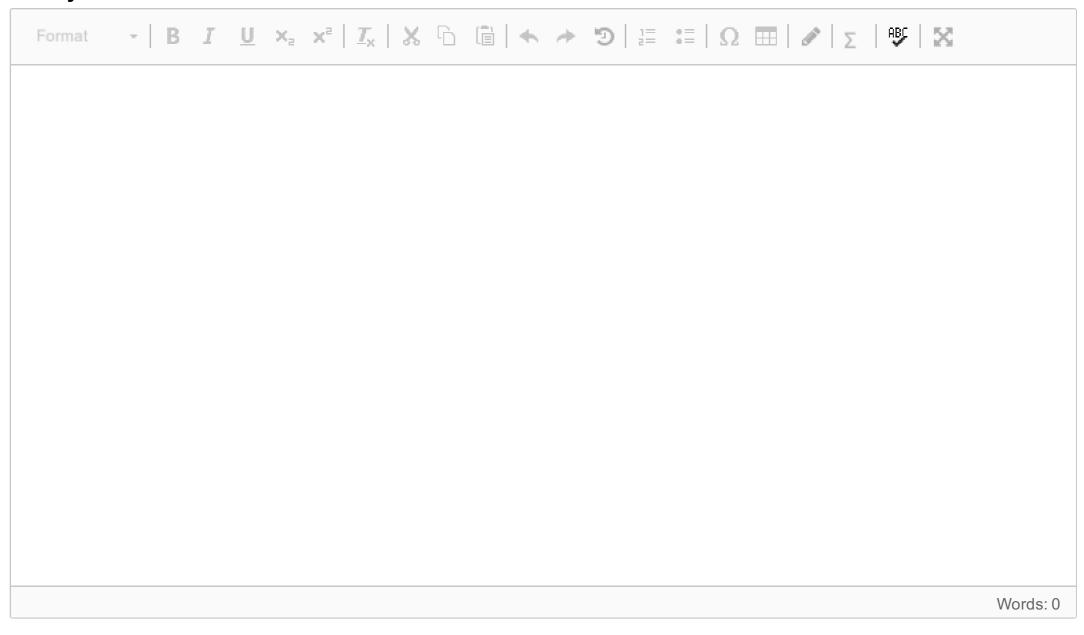
- ii. A: What's kimchi?
- B: It's some kind of Korean food, isn't it?
- iii. No man is an island. [From Meditation XVII, by John Donne]
- iv. Professor A: Dr X was your student, wasn't he? Would you recommend him for the job as a linguistics lecturer that we are advertising?

Professor B: Well, he was always on time for tutorials, and he has good dress-sense.

Part III: answer here

Remember to answer only ONE question in this part

Write your answer here...



Maks poeng: 0

Knytte håndtegninger til denne oppgaven? Bruk følgende kode:

