

## 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...

Format - | **B** | *I* | U |  $x_2$  |  $x^2$  |  $I_x$  | ✂ | 📄 | 📄 | ⬅ | ➡ | ↺ | ☰ | ☷ | Ω | 📊 | ✎ | Σ | ✖

Words: 0

Maks poeng: 0

**Knytte håndtegninger til denne oppgaven?**

Bruk følgende kode:

*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...**

Format | **B** | *I* | U |  $x_2$  |  $x^2$  |  $\int_x$  | ✂ | 📄 | 📁 | ⬅ | ➡ | ↺ | ☰ | ☷ | Ω | 📊 | ✎ | Σ | ABC | ✖

Words: 0

Maks poeng: 0

**Knytte håndtegninger til denne oppgaven?**

Bruk følgende kode:

**XXXXXXXXXX***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...

Format | **B** | *I* | U |  $x_2$  |  $x^2$  |  $\int_x$  | ✂ | 📄 | 📄 | ⬅ | ➡ | ↺ | ☰ | ☰ | ☰ | Ω | 📊 | ✎ | Σ | ABC | ✖

Words: 0

Maks poeng: 0

**Knytte håndtegninger til denne oppgaven?**

Bruk følgende kode:

**XXXXXXXX**