

國立嘉義大學99學年度  
外國語言學系碩士班招生考試試題

科目：語言學概論

1. What is “Language”? Linguists point out that “*Human language is untaught, instinct, infinite, species-specific, and separate from general cognitive capacity*”. Do you agree or disagree the above statement? Please state your reasons.( 25%)

2. Please read the following Examples (a) and (b), and answer the two questions below. (25%)

Examples

(a) Peter: It’s a lovely day for a picnic.

[They go for a picnic and the sun shines.]

Mary: It’s a lovely day for a picnic, indeed.

(b) Peter: It’s a lovely day for a picnic.

[They go for a picnic and it rains.]

Mary: It’s a lovely day for a picnic, indeed.

(1) The reading of the expression “It’s a lovely day for a picnic, indeed” in Example (a) is *different from* the one in Example (b). Please explain the difference between the two expressions.

(2) Some people suggest that the expression “It’s a lovely day for a picnic” in Example (b) is an ironic utterance. Please explain this expression from one of the three irony views: the view of irony as a negation, the view of irony as echo or pretense or the view of irony as a mental space.

3. Examine the following data (from a to h) and explain how *jihu* ‘almost’ (幾乎) and *kuaiyao* ‘almost’ (快要) are different and the same. Don’t forget to explain how your theory explains the grammatical and ungrammatical examples. (25%)

(a) 他幾乎吃飽了。

(b) 他快要吃飽了。

(c) 快要吃飯了。

(d)\*幾乎吃飯了。

(e) 他幾乎鋸斷這棵樹。

(f) 他快要鋸斷這棵樹。

(g) 快要開學了。

(h)\*幾乎開學了。

4. Look at the following English sentences (a) and (b). Tell us whether the underlined V NP to VP strings in the two sentences are the same structure. Provide tests to support your answer. If you think they are the same structure, what structure are they? If you think they are not the same structure, how are they structurally different?( 25%)

(a) John believed himself to be a genius.

(b) John persuaded himself to see a doctor.