

Multiple Choice Questions

EN010204 - English Language History and Contemporary Linguistics

1. The theory which is based on the assumption that language originated as a result of human instinct to imitate sounds?
 - A. Ding Dong theory
 - B. The Bow-vow theory
 - C. The Pooh-pooh theory
 - D. The Gesture theory

2. Who among these is an ancient linguist of India?
 - A. Tista Bagchi
 - B. Noam Chomsky
 - C. Patanjali
 - D. Kshetresa Chandra Chattopadhyaya

3. Which of these terms refer to the study of speech sounds of a given language and their function within the sound system of that language?
 - A. Phonetics
 - B. Phonology
 - C. Syntax
 - D. Morphology

4. Language is never static; it is capable of change over time and distance. This property of language is called?
 - A. Transference
 - B. Dynamic
 - C. Displacement
 - D. Recursiveness

5. Which of these words is based on the phenomena, 'Onomatopoeia'?
 - A. Cuckoo
 - B. Book
 - C. Door
 - D. Blackboard

6. Language is a social phenomenon.
 - A. True
 - B. False

7. Human beings can talk about things and events other than those happening in the here and now. This characteristic of language is called?
 - A. Displacement
 - B. Duality of structure

- C. Recursiveness
- D. Transference

8. Which of these is not a type of linguistics?

- A. Historical
- B. Personal
- C. Comparative
- D. Synchronic

9. Which of these finds out how a certain set of people use a language at a given time?

- A. Diachronic Linguistics
- B. Comparative Linguistics
- C. Synchronic Linguistics
- D. Historical Linguistics

10. Human language is structured at the levels of phonemes and morphemes and at the level of words. This property of language is called?

- A. Duality
- B. Recursiveness
- C. Displacement
- D. Transference

11. Which of these is the study of meaning of words, and the development of the meaning of words?

- A. Morphology
- B. Phonetics
- C. Semantics
- D. Syntax

12. A term introduced by the linguist Saussure which refers to the state of a language as it exists at any given time.

- A. Synchrony
- B. Diachrony
- C. Paradigmatic
- D. Creole

13. The study of signs is termed as _____?

- A. Semiotics
- B. Semantics
- C. Paradigmatic
- D. Parole

14. In its general sense it refers to the creative capacity of language users to produce an endless number of new sentences, in contrast to the communication systems of animals is called?

- A. Productivity
- B. Langue
- C. Paradigmatic
- D. Parole

15. The system of communication within a community?

- A. Langue
- B. Parole
- C. Paradigmatic
- D. Register

16. The study of language and mind, which has greatly advanced our understanding of the way in which we acquire language is?

- A. Sociolinguistics
- B. Psycholinguistics
- C. Bio linguistics
- D. None of these

17. In English IPA there are _____ consonant and _____ Vowel sounds.

- A. 22 and 12
- B. 23 and 19
- C. 24 and 20
- D. 25 and 20

18. Father of modern linguistics _____.

- A. Noam Chomsky
- B. Ferdinand De Saussure
- C. Albert Chomsky
- D. Noah Webster

19. Chomsky developed Transformational-Generative Grammar in_____?

- A. 1950
- B. 1951
- C. 1952
- D. 1957

20. Competence is a term to describe the knowledge possessed by native users of a language which enables them to speak and understand their language fluently was introduced by_____?

- A. Ferdinand De Saussure
- B. Enoch Powel
- C. Noam Chomsky
- D. None of these

21. _____ is a term that denotes the historical perspective for studying language?

- A. Synchrony
- B. Diachrony
- C. Both a and b
- D. None of these

22. Which among the following is an example acronym?

- A. Smog
- B. UNESCO
- C. Buzz
- D. Edit

23. Words such as 'UNESCO' and 'RADAR' are instances of _____?

- A. Compounding
- B. Acronym
- C. Reduplicates
- D. Conversion

24. Morphology is the branch of linguistics which deals with?

- A. The study of the structure of sounds and symbols.
- B. Study of the structure of letters.
- C. The study of the structure of words

D. Study of meanings.

25. Which among the following is an example for portmanteau ____?

- A. Smog
- B. UNESCO
- C. Buzz
- D. Edit

26. Which among the following implies the actual meaningful utterance of the individual speaking or writing a given language?

- A. Langue
- B. Parole
- C. Performance
- D. both Parole and Performance

27. Words such as 'smog' and 'motel' are instances of _____?

- A. Compounding
- B. Portmanteau
- C. Derivation
- D. Backformation

28. ____ is a process of word formation wherein new words are coined by combining the segments of two different existing words?

- A. Compounding
- B. Portmanteau
- C. Derivation
- D. Backformation.

29. Which among the following pairs are Labiodental fricatives?

- A. /p/ & /b/
- B. /f/ & /v/
- C. /t/ & /d/
- D. /k/ & /g/

30. Which among the following are bilabial plosive sounds in English RP?

- A. /p/ & /b/
- B. /m/ & /v/
- C. /t/ & /d/

D. /k/ & /g/

31. Which among the following is a glottal fricative sound in English RP

- A. /p/
- B. /v/
- C. /k/
- D. /h/

32. The classification of vowels is based on ____?

- A. The position of the lips
- B. The part of the tongue that is raised
- C. The height to which the tongue is raised
- D. All of the above

33. According to the part of the tongue that is raised, vowels can be classified into ____?

- A. Round vowels & unrounded vowels
- B. Front vowels & back vowels
- C. High vowels & low vowels
- D. Tense vowels & lax vowels

34. The phonemes which do not occur in the same linguistic environment and which when occur so, do not bring about a change in meaning are said to be in ____?

- A. Complementary distribution
- B. Contrastive distribution
- C. Non-complementary distribution
- D. None of the above

35. The pronunciation of English practised by the educated people at the public schools came to be called ____?

- A. Standard English
- B. Received Pronunciation
- C. Standard pronunciation
- D. Recognized pronunciation

36. The IPA came into existence in the year _____?

- A. 1889
- B. 1998
- C. 1989

D. 1888

37. Words with two syllables are called ___ words?

- A. Multisyllabic
- B. Disyllabic
- C. Try syllabic
- D. Polysyllabic

38. The word 'examination' is a ___ word?

- A. Monosyllabic
- B. Disyllabic
- C. Try syllabic
- D. Polysyllabic

39. The /p/ in 'spin' and 'pin' is.....

- A. Allophones
- B. Allomorphs
- C. Morpheme variants
- D. Minimal pairs

40. The clear /l/ and the dark /l/ are the ___ of the same phoneme /l/?

- A. Allophones
- B. Allomorphs
- C. Morpheme variants
- D. Minimal pairs

41. The two great linguists who have contributed much to frame the device of Immediate Constituent analysis are ___?

- A. Leonard Bloomfield & Noam Chomsky
- B. Leonard Bloomfield & Max Muller
- C. Max Muller & Herman Gundert
- D. Edward Sapir & Ferdinand de Saussure

42. ___ is a method of word formation whereby one or more syllables are removed from longer words ?

- A. Portmanteau
- B. Onomatopoeia
- C. Clipping
- D. Metanalysis

43. The final consonants /s/, /z/ in the words 'cats', and 'dogs' are instances of?

- A. Allophones
- B. Allomorphs
- C. Minimal pairs
- D. None of the above

44. The form 'dog' is a __ morpheme?

- A. A free morpheme
- B. Free variation
- C. Bound morpheme
- D. All of the above

45. - - - - is a minimal meaningful unit in the structure of a language.

- A. Syllable
- B. Phoneme
- C. Morpheme
- D. Allomorph

46. /m/, /n/ are ----- sounds?

- A. Bilabial
- B. Nasal
- C. Velar
- D. Glottal

47. The term ___ refers to omissions of certain sounds, syllables or even words in continuous speech?

- A. Alliteration
- B. Assonance
- C. Elision
- D. None of the above

48. The term _ refers to the phenomenon of pauses in speech?

- A. Stress
- B. Pitch
- C. Intonation
- D. Juncture

49. ___ is the degree of force with which a sound of syllable is uttered ?

- A. Stress
- B. Pitch
- C. Intonation
- D. Juncture

50. ___ are also called secondary phonemes?

- A. Suprasegmentals
- B. Morphemes
- C. Allomorphs
- D. Allophones

51. The final /n/ in the words 'button' and 'mutton' are?

- A. Syllabic consonants
- B. Sibilants
- C. Suffixes
- D. Marginal consonants

52. Syllables in which the consonant functions as nucleus are called?

- A. Syllabic consonants
- B. Sibilants
- C. Suffixes
- D. None of the above

53. The word 'bank' in 'on the banks of the river' and 'banks are financial institutions' is an instance of ___ ?

- A. Allophones
- B. Homophones
- C. Homographs
- D. Homonyms

54. The term ___ is used to designate words which are spelt differently but pronounced alike and which are different in meaning

- A. Allophones
- B. Homophones
- C. Homographs
- D. Homonyms

55. Consonants /j/ and /w/ are -----?

- A. Semi-vowels
- B. Laterals
- C. Sibilants
- D. Trills

56. The consonant /s/ is a -----.

- A. Alveolar
- B. Lateral
- C. Nasal
- D. Semi-vowel

57. - - - - are pairs of words or phrases in a particular language, that differ in only one phonological element, and have distinct meanings.

- A. Minimal Pair
- B. Homophones
- C. Semi vowels
- D. Acronymy

58. Which of the following patterns of intonation is used in command?

- A. The falling
- B. The rising
- C. The fall rise
- D. The rise fall

59. The preceding sound influencing the following sound is an instance of _ assimilation?

- A. Progressive
- B. Regressive
- C. Reciprocal
- D. None of the above

60. The two sounds influencing each other and combine to produce a third sound is an instance of ___ assimilation?

- A. Progressive
- B. Regressive
- C. Reciprocal
- D. Regressive

61. The special features which affect speech sounds such as stress, pitch intonation and juncture are called ____?

- A. Suprasegmentals phonemes
- B. Secondary phonemes
- C. Prosodic features
- D. All the above

62. /f/and /v/ are ____.

- A. Dental
- B. Labio-dental
- C. Bilabial
- D. Alveolar

63. ____ are sounds articulated in the glottis?

- A. Glottal
- B. Velar
- C. Palatal
- D. None of the above

64. ____ are produced involving the tip of the tongue and the back part of the teeth ridge?

- A. Post-alveolar
- B. Palate-alveolar
- C. Palatal
- D. Velar

65. - - - - Sounds are articulated by the tip of the tongue placed against the upper Teeth.

- A. Dental
- B. Labiodental
- C. Bilabial
- D. Alveolar

66. Sounds articulated by two lips are called?

- A. Dental
- B. Bilabial
- C. Labiodental

D. Alveolar

67. Articulatory phonetics is the study of physical properties of speech sounds.

- A. True
- B. False

68. The scientific study of language is called?

- A. Philology
- B. Phonology
- C. Phonetics
- D. Linguistics

69. What is a consonant called when it is placed at the end of a syllable?

- A. Releasing consonant
- B. Arresting consonant
- C. Dental consonant
- D. Alveolar consonant

70. The classification of vowels into tense vowels and lax vowels is based on?

- A. The position of the lips
- B. The part of the tongue that is raised
- C. The height to which the tongue is raised
- D. The state of the tension of the tongue

71. According to the position of lips, vowels can be classified into?

- A. Round vowels & unrounded vowels
- B. Front vowels & back vowels
- C. High vowels & low vowels
- D. Tense vowels & lax vowels

72. ----- is the process by which new words are coined by combining the segments of two different words.

- A. Portmanteau
- B. Onomatopoeia
- C. Clipping

D. Metanalysis

73. ___ is the system of phonetic notation composed of symbols and letters devised by the International Phonetic Association?

- A. The international phonetic script
- B. The international phonetic alphabet
- C. The international phonemic script
- D. The intelligible phonetic script.

74. A syllabic division is marked with?

- A. A slash
- B. An Apostrophe
- C. A hyphen
- D. A vertical stroke

75. The initial /l/ and the final /l/ in the word 'lull' are?

- A. Morphemes
- B. Clear /l/ and dark/l/
- C. Dark/l/ and clear /l/
- D. Minimal pairs

76. In transformational Generative Grammar, the 'Generative' means?

- A. 'to produce'
- B. 'to develop'
- C. 'to predict'
- D. All the above

77. The shortened forms like 'congrats' for congratulation is an instance of ?

- A. Portmanteau
- B. Onomatopoeia
- C. Clipping
- D. Metanalysis

78. "The degree of force with which sound or syllable of a word is uttered" is called

- A. intonation
- B. stress
- C. Rhythm
- D. Pause

79. In a Language how many classes of morphemes can be identified?

- A. Only one
- B. Two
- C. Three
- D. Four

80. "The Change of pitch of voice " is called

- A. stress
- B. Rhythm
- C. Pause
- D. Intonation

81. According to phonetic method, the unit of a word is

- A. Sentence
- B. Word
- C. Sound
- D. Letter

82. ___ are also called prosodic features?

- A. Suprasegmentals
- B. Morphemes
- C. Allomorphs
- D. Allophones

83. ___ refers to the linguistic norm specific to a geographical area, social class or status affecting mutual intelligibility?

- A. Dialect
- B. Idiolect
- C. Register
- D. Slang

84. A collection of similar Idiolect make up?

- A. Dialect
- B. Idiolects
- C. Register
- D. Slang

85. Which among the following implies the underlying rules governing the combination and organization of the elements of language?

- A. Language
- B. Parole
- C. Competence

D. Both langue and Competence

86. The concept of Langue and Parole was introduced by -----.

- A. Charles Sanders Pierce
- B. Ferdinand De Saussure
- C. Noam Chomsky
- D. Edward Sapir

87.----- introduced the term semiotics.

- A. Charles Sanders Pierce
- B. Ferdinand De Saussure
- C. Noam Chomsky
- D. Edward Sapir

88. The word "Doctor" has

- A. Two syllables with stress on one
- B. two syllables with stress on both
- C. two syllables with stress on first
- D. two syllables with stress on second

89. Which among the following is not a characteristic feature of language?

- A. Language is systematic
- B. Language is arbitrary
- C. Language is dynamic
- D. Language is instinctive

90. Who defined language as "a set or (finite or infinite) sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements" ?

- A. Noam Chomsky
- B. Ferdinand De Saussure
- C. Edward Sapir
- D. None of the above

91. The final /l/ in the word 'bottle' is an example of ?

- A. Syllabic consonants
- B. Sibilants
- C. Suffixes
- D. None of the above

92. Certain morphemes have more than one meaning and can be understood in more than one way. They are called?

- A. Allophones
- B. Homophones
- C. Homographs
- D. Homonyms

93. Semi-vowels are also known as?

- A. Approximants
- B. Laterals
- C. Sibilants
- D. Trills

94. Which of the following patterns of intonation is used in tag questions which imply that the speaker is certain about what is said?

- A. The falling
- B. The rising
- C. The fall rise
- D. None of the above

95. Sounds articulated with the tip of the tongue or the blade of the tongue against the teeth ridge are called?

- A. Dental
- B. Bilabial
- C. Labiodental
- D. Alveolar

96. ___ is the process by which one speech sound gets changed to another under the influence of another?

- A. Onomatopoeia
- B. Assimilation
- C. Regression
- D. Progression

97. ___ are gliding sounds during the articulation of which, the speech

organs glide from one vowel position to another?

- A. Diphthongs
- B. Triphthongs
- C. Semivowels
- D. Minimal pairs

98. An air stream mechanism is needed for the-----.

- A. Production of Speech
- B. Digestion process
- C. Blood circulation process
- D. None of these

99. The word 'diphthong' is derived from a Greek word which means -----.

- A. Vowel enhancement
- B. Syllable idea
- C. Speaking melodically
- D. Having two sounds

100. ___ is the totality of the speech habits of an individual?

- A. Dialect
- B. Idiolect
- C. Register
- D. Slang

Multiple Choice Questions – Language and Linguistics

ANSWER KEY

1. B. The Bow-vow theory
2. D. Kshetresa Chandra Chattopadhyaya
3. B *Phonology*
4. B Dynamic

5. A Cuckoo
6. A True
7. A Displacement
8. B Personal
9. C Synchronic Linguistics
10. A Duality

11. C Semantics

12. A Synchrony

13. A Semiotics

14. A Productivity

15. B Parole

16. B Psycholinguistics

17. C 24 and 20

18. A Noam Chomsky

19. D. **1957**
20. C Noam Chomsky

21. C Both a and b
22. B UNESCO
23. B Acronym
24. C. The study of the structure of words
25. A. Smog
26. D. both Parole and Performance
27. B. Portmanteau
28. B. Portmanteau
29. B. /f/ & /v/
30. A. /p/ & /b/
31. D. /h/
32. D. All of the above
33. B. Front vowels & back vowels
34. A. Complementary distribution
35. B. Received Pronunciation
36. D. 1888
37. B. Disyllabic
38. D. Polysyllabic
39. A. Allophones
40. A. Allophones
41. A. Leonard Bloomfield & Noam Chomsky
42. C. Clipping
43. B. Allomorphs

44. A. A free morpheme
45. C. Morpheme
46. B. Nasal
47. C. Elision
48. D. Juncture
49. A. Stress
50. A. Suprasegmentals
51. A. Syllabic consonants
52. A. Syllabic consonants
53. D. Homonyms
54. B. Homophones
55. A. Semi-vowels
56. A. Alveolar
57. A. Minimal Pair
58. A. The falling
59. A. Progressive
60. C. Reciprocal
61. D. All the above
62. B. Labio-dental
63. A. Glottal
64. A. Post-alveolar
65. D. Alveolar
66. B. Bilabial
67. B. False (Acoustic phonetics deal with physical properties of speech sounds)

68. D. Linguistics
69. B. Arresting consonant
70. D. The state of the tension of the tongue
71. A. Round vowels & unrounded vowels
72. A. Portmanteau
73. B. The international phonetic alphabet
74. C. A hyphen
75. B. Clear /l/ and dark/l/
76. C. 'to predict'
77. C. Clipping
78. B. stress
79. C. Three
80. D. Intonation
81. C. Sound
82. A. Suprasegmentals
83. A. Dialect
84. B. Idiolects
85. D. Both langue and Competence
86. B. Ferdinand De Saussure
87. A. Charles Sanders Pierce
88. C. two syllables with stress on first
89. D. Language is instinctive
90. A. Noam Chomsky
91. A. Syllabic consonants

92. D. Homonyms

93. A. Approximants

94. A. The falling

95. D. Alveolar

96. B. Assimilation

97. A. Diphthongs

98. A. Production of Speech

99. D. Having two sounds

100. B. Idiolect