

University of Biskra

Course: Linguistics

Section of English

Level: 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Lecturer: Dr. Ahmed C. Hoadjli

Groups: All

**In-Take Home Test -Answer Keys-**

Theme 1: Linguistics in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**PART ONE:** Just Remember it!

(6pts)

**Activity 1:** Choose the best answer \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5pts each)

1. Structuralism is \_\_\_\_\_ in its nature.

a. prescriptive

**b. synchronic**

c. historical

2. Structuralism is based on the assumption that grammatical categories should not be defined in terms of \_\_\_\_\_.

a. association

**b. meaning**

c. distribution

3. Traditional Grammar is best known for its focus on the study of \_\_\_\_\_.

a. spoken discourse

**b. written texts**

c. phonemics

4. The structural school has a tradition of laying stress on the \_\_\_\_\_ of language.

**a. relations**

b. meaning

c. contextualization

**Activity 2:** Decide whether these statements are *True* or *False* \_\_\_\_\_ (0.5pts each)

1. Saussure made a clear distinction between *Lingue* and *Parole*. He insisted on the importance to describe language in use.

2. Saussure's important ideas about linguistics were collected in *Courses of General Linguistics*, which he published a year before his death.

3. Structural linguistics was more interested in the way the linguistic units are arranged and their relationships.

4. According to structuralism, the analysis of language refers to linguistic approach that supposes that any linguistic unit should be associated with other elements.

1	2	3	4
False	False	True	True

**Activity 3:** Match the concepts with their respective definitions \_\_\_\_\_(0.5pts each)

- |                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| 1. Langue        | → | a. It is the actual manifestation of individual users of language.   |
| 2. Structuralism | → | b. A theory of linguistics that provided the mental description of language.   |
| 3. T.G.G.        | → | c. It is an approach about a system of rules that in some explicit way assigns structural descriptions to sentences. |
| 4. Parole        | → | d. It is the set of rules that are shared by members of the same community.  |

**PART TWO:** In-between! \_\_\_\_\_(6pts)

**Activity 1:** Fill in the gaps \_\_\_\_\_(0.5pts each)

The first of the basic principles to which Saussure refers is that the relationship between the \_\_\_\_\_ **1** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **2** \_\_\_\_\_ is arbitrary. The term 'arbitrary', he points out 'should not imply that the choice is left entirely to the speaker. Rather, it means that the \_\_\_\_\_ **3** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **4** \_\_\_\_\_ relationship is 'unmotivated'; that is, there is no 'natural connection' or intrinsic reason why a particular linguistic unit should be linked with a particular concept.

1	2	3	4
Signifier	↔	Signified	Signifier ↔ Signified

**Activity 2:** Briefly, answer the following questions \_\_\_\_\_(2pts each)

- Why does Modern Linguistics consider the written form of language not fundamental?  
Speech is innate and precedes writing, which is artificial and man-made. The flexibility of language is only apparent in speech since writing requires learning and does not represent the spontaneity of language.
- Why did De Saussure regard *Langue* as more important than *Parole*?  
Langue houses the linguistic rules that enable a society to produce language, while Parole is merely the individual realisation of these rules. Thus, the true form of language resides in Langue and not in Parole.

**Activity 1:** Write, in no more than 10 lines, a comprehensive composition on the topic that addresses the following statement —————

***“Enumerate the major principles on which modern linguistics rests”***

### Scoring Scale

<b>Content</b>	<b>4pts</b>	The paragraph should mention the main principles of modern linguistics (descriptivism, synchrony, that language is regarded as a system of systems, and that the main focus of study is on the spoken form of language).
<b>Form</b>	<b>3pts</b>	The language used must be formal and academic, free of the characteristics of informal language (Abbreviations, contractions...). The paragraph should also be coherent and cohesive to ensure that the ideas are smoothly interwoven.
<b>Mechanics</b>	<b>1pt</b>	Punctuation and capitalisation should be on point. Spelling should be accurate and consistent (either General American “GA” or Received Pronunciation “RP” English).

Overall, the paragraph is expected to be comprehensive and well-written.

*Where there is a will ... there is a way!*