

國 立 清 華 大 學 命 題 紙

九十學年度 外國語文學系 轉學生招生考試

科目 英語語言學概論 科號 114 共 2 頁第 1 頁 \*請在試卷【答案卷】內作答

Answer all of the following questions in English! Do not furnish irrelevant information!

1. What is the difference between ambiguity and vagueness? Determine whether each of the following sentences is ambiguous or simply vague. For each sentence provide paraphrases to capture its ambiguity or vagueness. (20%)
  - (a) One often meets old men and women in the garden.
  - (b) Hunting tigers can be dangerous.
  - (c) Jane and Mary agreed on the boat.
  - (d) They saw Mike from the floor above.
  - (e) The students were crazy to be on that train.
2. Phonetics and phonology are two important items of learning in introductory linguistics. Spell out the major distinction between them with illustrative examples in English? Helpful examples from other languages are acceptable and may be quite instructive. (20%)
3. Evoke a paradigm of the pronominal system of English in your mind. Do you think that it is a reflection of English as an inflectional Language? If so, provide a succinct definition of inflection as distinct from derivation? If not, what is the most appropriate term that can be used to describe the phenomenon in question? To the best of your knowledge, what major changes have taken place over the pronominal system in the history of English? (20%)
4. Comment on the following short extract of conversation in which mother is engaging an amusing dialog with her two children, Molly and her younger brother.

"Mommy, Molly hit me."

"Molly HIT me."

"You too?! Boy, she's in trouble!"

What is the point that makes the above passage so much delightful? In what respects is it linguistically interesting? What is revealing about the younger brother's language or rather the child language in general as shown in the first line uttered? Is there a term that can be used to best depict what is happening in the short exchange? (20%)

5. Each of the following examples features the construction of  $X_{sb}$ -V- $Y_{obj}$ -adj.

- a. Mary made her teacher angry.
- b. The fisherman found the cliff quite steep.
- c. Joan saw Mike sleepy.
- d. Tom often eats the oyster raw.
- e. The blacksmith hammered the hoe flat.

Nevertheless, each type of sentence on close examination shows a particular semantic relation between the adjective and the subject or the object as well as the verb in the main clause.

Provide an exact account of how these sentences differ with respect to the semantic link as just mentioned? (20%)