

國立清華大學命題紙

95 學年度 外國語文學系乙組 (外語教學組) 碩士班入學考試

科目 英語語言學概論 科目代碼 4501 共 四 頁第 一 頁 \*請在【答案卷】內作答

I. Provide the phonetic symbol representing each of the following sounds (don't forget to use square brackets) and then give an English word that contains the sound, underlining the letter or letters representing the sound. (5%)

1. high front tense unrounded vowel
2. mid back lax rounded vowel
3. voiced velar nasal
4. voiceless palatal fricative
5. voiced alveolar lateral liquid

II. Below are five redundancy rules about English. Write T before a statement if it is true. Write F if it is not true and then give a correct statement instead. (5%)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. All front vowels are nonround.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. All back vowels are round.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. All nasal consonants are voiced.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. After a consonant like /b/, /g/, /k/, or /p/, another stop consonant is not permitted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. If there are three consonants occurring in a row at the beginning of a word, the first one must be /s/, the second /p/ and the third either /l/ or /y/.

III. Some English compounds are made up of a noun and a verb, which fall into the following nine types of syntactic and semantic relationship, as represented by examples (a) to (i). (\* in the following examples means 'someone').

- (a) sunrise = the sun rises: daybreak, toothache
- (b) rattlesnake = the snake rattles: watchdog, turntable
- (c) dancing girl = the girl dances: wading bird, cleaning woman
- (d) blood test = \* tests blood: haircut, book review
- (e) sightseeing = \* sees sights: dress making, story-telling
- (f) call-girl = \* calls the girl: drawbridge, punchcard
- (g) chewing gum = \* chews gum = gum for chewing: drinking-water, spending money, ...
- (h) swimming pool = \* swims in the pool = a pool for swimming: waiting room, diving board, ...
- (i) daydreaming = \* dreams during the day = dreaming during the day: churchgoing, handwriting, ...

Examine the following ten compounds carefully and then decide which of the nine types of noun compound it belongs. Write the letter that represents the type in the parenthesis in front of each item. (10%)

- ( ) 1. reading material
- ( ) 2. firing-squad
- ( ) 3. popcorn
- ( ) 4. birth-control
- ( ) 5. sound change

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- ( ) 6. sleep walking
- ( ) 7. drinking cup
- ( ) 8. fault finding
- ( ) 9. drip coffee
- ( ) 10. landslide

IV. Distinguish the following pairs of terms, giving illustrative examples wherever relevant. (12%)

1. relational vs. gradable antonyms
2. tone vs. intonation languages
3. paradigmatic vs. syntagmatic relation
4. derivational vs. inflectional affixes

V. The following sentences are all ambiguous, i.e., each of them has more than one meaning. First give a paraphrase for each reading and then give different tree structures to explain the ambiguity involved if they can be so disambiguated. (12%)

1. They are discouraging transfers.
2. The police officer wounded the robber with a gun.
3. Visiting relatives can be extremely boring.

VI. Read the following cartoon carefully and then do both A and B. (6%)

- A. Explain in your own words the humor involved in the cartoon. (Hint: Think of the reason why the sentence given by Dennis the menace is not a contradiction.)
- B. Give two other verbs in English that can be used exactly like “smell” in the cartoon.



\*HE CAN SMELL BETTER THAN WE CAN, BUT HE USUALLY SMELLS WORSE.\*

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VII. The following are entries for *history* and *herstory* from *Merriam-Webster's 11th Collegiate Dictionary* (CD edition):

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Main Entry:        **his-to-ry**  
Pronunciation:    'his-t(ə-)rē  
Function:                *noun*  
Inflected Form:    *plural -ries*  
Etymology:        **Middle English** *histoire, historie*, from Anglo-French *estoire, histoire*, from Latin *historia*, from Greek, inquiry, history, from *histōr, istōr* knowing, learned; akin to Greek *eidenai* to know — more at WIT  
Date:                14th century

1 : TALE, STORY

2 **a** : a chronological record of significant events (as affecting a nation or institution) often including an explanation of their causes **b** : a treatise presenting systematically related natural phenomena **c** : an account of a patient's medical background **d** : an established record <a prisoner with a *history* of violence>

3 : a branch of knowledge that records and explains past events <medieval history>

4 **a** : events that form the subject matter of a history **b** : events of the past **c** : one that is finished or done for <the winning streak was history> <you're history> **d** : previous treatment, handling, or experience (as of a metal)

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Main Entry:        **her-sto-ry**  
Pronunciation:    'hər-st(ə-)rē  
Function:                *noun*  
Inflected Form:    *plural -ries*  
Etymology:        **blend of** *her* and *history*  
Date:                1970

: HISTORY; *specifically* : history considered or presented from a feminist viewpoint or with special attention to the experience of women

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Based on the information provided in these two entries, explain why and how the word *herstory* came into being. Is there an appropriate term for the word formation process? 10%

VIII. Explain how *five* is related to *fifteen* phonetically and phonologically (as opposed to the way *four* is related to *fourteen*). 10%

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IX. Why do some of the English verbs have irregular past forms? 10%

X. English indefinite article has two forms: 'a' and 'an'. Some grammar books say the rule is: 'insert "n" after "a" when the article comes before a word beginning with a vowel.' Based on your knowledge of the development of English, comment on this rule. 10%

XI. Traditional prescriptive grammarians insist that the form 'It is her' is ungrammatical and that it should be replaced with 'It is she'. But the form 'It is she' is generally felt to be stilted and unnatural. However, in a sentence such as 'It is she who looks after the children', the use of 'she' is more preferable than 'her' (although the sentence may sound haughty to some native speakers). Based on these facts, explain:

1. Why 'It is her' is felt to be more natural than 'It is she'. 5%
2. Why 'It is she who looks after the children' is more preferable than 'It is her who looks after the children'. 5%