Engl 227
Fall 2001/2
Prof. Lina Choueiri

February 1, 2002

Final Exam

Good luck!

Part I Essay *(40pts)*

Please choose *one* of the following *two* topics:

- Define the notions *competence* and *performance*. Discuss what studies in language processing tell us about linguistic performance and the distinction between 'performance' and 'competence'.
- State, explain, and illustrate Grice's maxims. Apply them to analyze the following exchanges *(e.g. explain how the literal meaning of the utterances differs from the non-literal meaning and provide motivation for this difference)*:

    (a) A: Did you like the movie?
    B: Well, the costumes were authentic.

    (b) I come home last night, and there's a car in the dining room. I said to my wife, "How did you get the car in the dining room?" She said, "It was easy. I made a left turn when I came out of the kitchen."

Part II Short answer questions *(60 pts)*

(1) Define briefly the following terms: Speech synthesis, Accent.

(2) Discuss two arguments against the hypothesis that states that children learn their first language through reinforcement.

(3) Give the semantic role of each of the underlined noun phrases in the following sentences:

    (a) Small US Studios delight Audiences at Moscow Fair.
    (b) The magician changed the ball into a rabbit.

(4) Discuss the following excerpt using Tannen's approach to mixed gender communication.

    He: What's wrong?
    She: You were taking up too much of the bed.
    He: I'm sorry.
    She: You're always doing that.
    He: What?
    She: Taking advantage of me.

He: Wait a minute. I was asleep. How can you hold me responsible for what I do when I'm asleep?

She: Well, what about the time…

(5) We have observed three semantic relations among sentences: P(araphrase), E(ntailment), and C(ontradiction). Which of these relations is exemplified in each of the following pairs of sentences? *(Hint: use N, for none)*

(a) If you go to the party, I'll go too.
If you don't go to the party, I won't go.

(b) At least 30 people will come to the party.
At least 20 people will come to the party.

(c) My pet cobra likes the taste of chocolate fudge.
My pet cobra finds chocolate fudge tasty.

(d) Vera is an only child.
Olga is Vera's sister.

(6) (a) What is a metaphor?

(b) In the sentences that follow identify the word (or phrase) that is used metaphorically and determine, for each set of sentences, the basis for each metaphor.

Example: i. They got into a <u>heated</u> argument
ii. She gave him an <u>icy</u> stare
iii. He gave her the <u>cold shoulder</u>

The metaphors in (i-iii) describe human relations in terms of *temperature*.

(a) i. The eye of a needle
ii. The foot of the bed
iii. The hands of the clock
iv. The arms of a chair
v. The table legs

(b) i. This lecture is easy to digest
ii. He just eats up the lecturer's words
iii. Chew on this thought for a while
iv. Listen to this juicy piece of gossip