



## Final Exam

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*Remember to pace yourself. Answer ALL the questions. Enjoy!*

### Part I Short Answer Questions

1. Define the following terms and provide an example where it is relevant: (15 pts)  
Idiom, semantic role, metathesis
2. Think of three uses our society can make of speech synthesis. (9pts)
3. Garden Path sentences like *While Mary was mending the sock fell off her lap* have been related to bottom-up theories of language processing. Explain briefly how that can be the case. (10 pts)
4. 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? (Hint: use N, for N(one)) (5pts)
  - (a) All the boys went home.  
Some of the boys went to the movies.
  - (b) I am from Russia.  
I speak Russian.
  - (c) John remembered to send Mary a gift.  
John didn't send Mary a gift.
  - (d) John didn't manage to reach the summit.  
John tried to reach the summit.
  - (e) Flipper likes chocolate.  
Flipper is a chocolate lover.
5. The following utterances were made either by Broca's aphasics or Wernicke's aphasics. Explain briefly why you think which utterance is made by which type of aphasic. (12pts)
  - a. Oh, ... if I could I would, and a sick old man diflined a sinter, minter.
  - b. Words... words... words ... two, four, six, eight, ... blaze am he.
  - c. Well ... sunset ... uh ... horses nine, no, uh, two, tails want swish...



6. For each of the following excerpts name a (Gricean) maxim that has been violated and explain how. What is the intended meaning in each case? (14pts)
- (a) Queen Victoria was made of iron.
  - (b) A: Teheran's in Turkey, isn't it teacher?  
B: And London's in Armenia, I suppose.
  - (c) A: Excuse me –how much is this screwdriver?  
B: \$9.95. The saw is \$39.50, and the power drill there on the table is \$89.00.
  - (d) A: You're soaked! It must be raining pretty hard outside.  
B: You're a regular Sherlock Homes.

**Part II Long Answer Question (35pts)**

**Elements of language comprehension**

When it comes to language comprehension and understanding, people are by far superior to machines. This can partly be attributed to the fact that meaning is not always literal. Write a meaningful essay discussing the complexity of meaning making in language. Your essay should include a discussion of the following points:

- (a) Two different types of evidence that meaning is not always literal
- (b) What other type of complexity do we have to resolve in order to understand linguistic input?
- (c) Provide an evidence from language processing experiments that show the complexity of language comprehension.
- (d) What do you think is the main problem that computers have to overcome in order to reach the level of humans in language comprehension?