

Final Exam – June 19, 2000

**I. [10 points] Respond to only one of the following three statements.**

- a. Language itself is not sexist, but it reflects sexism in society.
- a. The existence of taboo words stimulates the creation of euphemisms.
- a. Many believe that the English spoken by Blacks and Hispanics is substandard.

**II. [10 points] Respond to only one of the following three statements.**

- b. English spelling should conform to the way we pronounce the word.
- b. Identify the various stages in the development of writing systems around the world.
- b. Supposing you wanted to investigate if two languages were derived from the same mother language. What procedure could you follow?

**III. [10 points] Respond to only one of the following three statements.**

- c. The child appears to be equipped from birth with the neural prerequisites for the acquisition and use of human language just as birds are biologically “prewired” to learn the songs of their species.
- c. Explain the theory of language acquisition that you believe is the most convincing. Support your argument with examples.
- c. Discuss the five major components of the English language.

**IV. [10 points] Respond to only one of the following three statements.**

- d. Discuss computers and language and how computers can be used in educational settings.
- d. Argue for or against the presence of a Universal Grammar.
- d. What are the arguments and evidence that have been put forth to support the notion that there are two separate parts to the brain?

**V. [10 points] Define and give examples for any 10 of the following 15 terms:**

- |                       |               |                   |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| a. Spoonerisms        | e. Metathesis | j. Pidgin         |
| b. Closed class words | f. Slang      | k. Isogloss       |
| c. Syllabic writing   | g. Rebus      | l. Phonotactics   |
| d. Bound morpheme     | h. Jargon     | m. Free Variation |
| e. Aspiration         | i. Blends     | n. Dialect        |

**Answer all of the following:****VI. [20 points] Name the changes that occurred with any three of the following six English words: (a colon → [:] means that the preceding vowel is elongated, like being doubled)**

- Old English **hlud** [xlu:d] became Modern English **loud**
- Old English **crabba** [kraba] became Modern English **crab**
- Old English **læfan** [læ:van] became Modern English **crab**
- Old English **gat** [ga:t] became Modern English **goat**
- Old English **ful** [fu:l] became Modern English **goul**
- Old English **fisc** [flsk] became Modern English **fish**

**VII. [15 points] Decipher, and then give the rule for the following Pig Latin sentence:**

Thop-e fop-oot bop-all stop-a dop-i op-um blop-ew dop-own.

**VIII. [15 points] If you had the power to decide if the languages of the world were to either (1) remain as they are or (2) become creolized, which position would you take and why. Include in your argument positive and negative aspects of the languages under discussion and how they influenced your decision.**