

Final Exam

Part I Provide a brief definition for **three** of the following expressions. **Please observe the following instructions:** Your definition must include a statement linking the expression in question to a broader issue within the politics of language. Provide examples where appropriate. (30 pts)

1. Linguistic Genocide
2. Polyphonous Identity
3. "Historical Engineering"
4. Commonsense discourses
5. The Ideology of Standard English

Part II True or False. (Don't provide ANY justifications for your answers)
(20 pts)

1. The use of passive voice in "the males are all said to be Algerians linked to Osama bin Laden" and in "up to 30 more are feared to be operating in Britain" serves to reduce the level of 'factuality' that can be claimed for those statements.
2. The use of BBC English (or mainstream RP) in radio or television discourse illustrates the term 'audience design'.
3. Register can be defined as linguistic variation according to the context of use.
4. The words 'sex' and 'gender' refer, respectively, to a biological classification and behavior that is socially acquired.
5. The term 'semantic derogation' is exemplified by the use of words such as 'waitress', 'hostess', and 'nurse'.
6. According to the 'difference' theory, women use more hedges than men because they prefer to avoid conflict and so use forms which allow for disagreement to take place.
7. According to Chomsky, the prevailing conception of democracy in the US takes the citizen to be an observer, not a participant in decision-making.
8. Multiple negation, like other established English usages, is considered to be 'incorrect' because it is 'illogical'.
9. Given the nature of standardization, standard English is not a variety that can be described linguistically, but is better

defined as a variety that is essentially determined by who speaks it.

10. AAVE is a non-standard variety of English also known as Ebonics.

Part III Answer the following **two** questions. (50 pts)

1. Consider the following excerpt of a conversation between two 25 year old men discussing marriage, a potentially personal topic:

Timothy: Why do you think, uh, so many marriages ain't making it? That's, uh, you know, a broad question.

Winston: I think most people rush into it, for one thing. (6 seconds pause) Just can't wait to get married.

Timothy: I think, uh, I think people, a lot of people, and I'm not saying I *do* but a lot of people don't have an adequate or a mature, you know, definition in their lives of what love is. You know, uh, I don't know, 'cause a lot of the strife, you know, in my opinion, in marriages and relationships is because the person has the, uh, you know, selfish attitude.

How do the men in the excerpt above conform to what has been said about men's use of language? How do they break the stereotypes about men's use of language?

2. Write a short paragraph which answers the following questions: (a) How do you understand Pennycook's term 'the wordliness of English'? (b) In your experience using English in the Lebanese context, can you provide a characteristic example from the Lebanese variety of English, which might divert from the 'norm/standard'? (c) In what sense does 'the wordliness of English' defy the view that the spread of English is detrimental to other languages and speakers of other languages?