

English 247: Discourse Analysis
Fall 2002-2003
Dr. R. Diab



FINAL EXAM (Time: 3 hours)

I. Provide an appropriate definition for each of the following expressions.
(20 points)

1. Utterance incompleter
2. Commissive speech act
3. Austin's felicity conditions
4. Gricean maxim of quality
5. Incompletion marker
6. Expressive speech act
7. Gricean maxim of manner
8. Dispreferred seconds
9. Speech exchange system
10. Contextualization cue

II. Answer the two following questions concerning Conversation Analysis:
(15 points)

1. What does Sacks suggest concerning degrees of control in turn-taking and how does he explain the low incidence of overlap and silence (compared to continuous speech) in spoken discourse?
2. Describe and give examples of three techniques speakers may use to "keep the floor" in a conversation. Also discuss two possible techniques for non-speakers who wish to speak and are *not* offered the floor and one technique for non-speakers who are offered the floor but who do *not* wish to speak.

III. In your opinion, do Sacks' conversational techniques and Grice's maxims of conversation apply universally? In other words, would individuals from different cultural backgrounds share similar assumptions concerning turn-taking, interruption, back channeling, body language...etc.? Discuss, supporting your argument with examples. (15 points)



- IV. **What do interactional sociolinguistics and ethnography of communication have in common as approaches to discourse analysis? How do they differ?** (Note: Provide a compare-and-contrast analysis, NOT a simple description of each). *(15 points)*
- V. **In your opinion, are there any *universal* systematic differences between men's and women's speech?** Would cultural background interact with gender in shaping how men and women differ in speech? How? *(15 points)*
- VI. **Examine the following extract of spoken discourse and answer the questions that follow.** *(20 points)*

A: Are you gonna be here for ten minutes?

B: Uh, yeah.

A: Would you mind...? I won't be long.

B: *No*, no, go ahead. That's fine.

A: *Thanks!*

B: No problem.

1. **From this brief exchange, what can you say about the people, the situation, and their relationship? How can you tell? In answering this question, which of the approaches to discourse analysis that we have discussed this semester did you *mostly* adhere to?** *(10 points)*
2. **Analyze the excerpt from a speech act perspective.** *(10 points)*

GOOD LUCK!!! ☺