

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BOMBAY

PH.D. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
July 1, 2013

LINGUISTICS

IMPORTANT: Please answer all questions in the answer booklet provided. Please observe word limits strictly. Your answers should be well-organized, include suitable examples and clearly illustrate your understanding of the theoretical issues under consideration.

PART I:

Write notes on any **FOUR** of the following. (Word limit, 400 words - two sides or less of your answer booklet). (4x10= 40 marks)

- 1) Discuss the hierarchical structure of word-internal constituents and what they tell us about operations in morphology.
- 2) Choose any one discipline that interfaces with Linguistics and demonstrate the relevance of linguistic theories to that field.
- 3) Grammatical knowledge is 'tacit' (or subconscious). Yes or no. Justify your answer with suitable examples from different levels of linguistic analysis.
- 4) Phonemes may be grouped into syllables. What features of grammar are seen at the level of the syllable?
- 5) What are some of the observed properties of first language acquisition? What do they tell us about language in humans?
- 6) Provide a Phonetics-based account of the phenomenon of 'accent' in second language learners.
- 7) How does cross-linguistic evidence enable the defining and constructing of Universal Grammar?
- 8) Is lexical semantics sufficient for the construal of phrasal/sentence meaning? If not, then what aspects of meaning lie outside lexical semantics and how can they be accounted for?
- 9) Discuss any one of (a) binding, (b) theta or (c) trace theories.
- 10) Discuss any one 'language disorder'? How does it enable our understanding of the structure and nature of language?

PART I:

Describe in less than 1000 words (not more than 4 sides) your research/academic interests and how your educational and research/professional background has equipped you to pursue further research in the area of your choice and/or in linguistics in general. **Do not repeat topics/ideas presented in the questions below.** If you are interested in particular languages or in fieldwork or in specific problems, state which and why. [10 marks]

