

*Model Answer (AV 8001)*  
*MA I*  
*Introduction to Linguistics*

1. (i) Noam Chomsky
  - (ii) (b)
  - (iii) (a)
  - (iv) (a)
  - (v) (a)
  - (vi) (a)
  - (vii) (a)
  - (viii) (b)
  - (ix) Two
  - (x) (a)

2. The four key properties of language and their existence in animal communication:

- (i) Arbitrariness: This means that there is no necessary connection between the form of the signal and the thing being referred to. Animal communicative sounds are closely correlated with their meanings so this property is absent in animals.
- (ii) Productivity: This property refers to the capability of humans to continually create new expressions and utterances to describe new objects and situations. Animals cannot produce any new signals to describe novel experiences. So this property is not present in animals.
- (iii) Cultural transmission: Humans language is transferred through culture but animal language is inherited through genes.
- (iv) Duality: Duality is one of the most economical features of human language with the help of which we are capable of producing a very large number of sound combinations but animals' communicative signals are fixed and cannot be broken into parts.

3. Stages of language acquisition in children:

Stage I: Cooing and Babbling

Stage II: The One-word stage (*one-morpheme* or *one-unit stage* or holophrastic stage)

Stage III: The Two-word stage

Stage IV: Telegraphic stage or early multiword stage (*multi-morpheme*)

Stage V: Later multiword stage

4. Chomsky's grammar is also known as Transformational Grammar or Transformational Generative (TG) Grammar. Transformational grammar is basically a theory to understand the processing of grammatical knowledge in the human brain.

According to Chomsky, the deep structure of a sentence is the abstract underlying form which determines the meaning of the sentence. The surface structure of the sentence is the actual organization of the physical signal into phrases of varying size, into words or various categories, with certain particles, inflections, arrangements, and so on.

5. A vowel sound is one in which the air flow is unobstructed when the sound is made. The vowel sounds are the music, or movement, of our language.

Distinctive features of Vowels:

Vowels →	ɪ:	i	e	æ	ɒ	ɔ:	ɑ:	ʊ	u:	ə	ə:	ʌ
Features ↓	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	
high	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
low	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
back	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
front	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-
round	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-
tense	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+
lax												

6. The term “language varieties” covers “language” and “dialect.” It is a specific language or specific form of language used by a particular community.

High (H) variety of language is the standard variety used for ‘high’ purposes such as giving a lecture, reading, writing, or broadcasting, while the low (L) variety is often a ‘low’ spoken vernacular such as interacting with friends at home, instructions to servants etc.

7. Stylistics is the study of style. Stylistics is the branch of Linguistics that studies style in language and especially in works of literature.

Stylistics looks at what is ‘going on’ within the language; what the linguistic associations are that the style of language reveals. Stylistics is concerned with the examination of grammar, lexis, semantics, as well as phonological properties and discursive devices.

8. (a) Both the notions - Synchronic and Diachronic - refer to two different methods of linguistic studies. The study of how a language works at a given time, regardless of its past history or future destiny, is called descriptive or synchronic linguistics. The study of how speech habits change as time goes by is called historical or diachronic linguistics.

(b) *Syntagmatic* is concerned with positioning and *paradigmatic* is concerned with substitution. We form a sentence out of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs etc. This is syntagmatic. The replacement of one pronoun by other or one verb by other and so on is paradigmatic.

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