

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: **PhD (English)**

PhD Coursework Examination, Regular Mode, December - 2023

Paper Code: **PHEN102CCT**, Paper Title: **Language, Literature and Theory**

Time: 3 Hours

Total Marks: 70

Note: This question paper consists of three parts: Part – A, Part-B and Part-C. Number of words to answers each question is only indicative. Attempt all parts.

Part-A contains 10 compulsory questions, of multiple choice/fill in the blank/ very short answer type questions. Answer all questions. Each question carries 01 mark. **(10x1=10 marks)**

Part-B contains 08 questions, of which students are supposed to answer 05 questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(5x6=30 marks)**

Part-C contains 05 questions, of which students are supposed to answer 03 questions. Answer each question in approximately 500 words. Each question carries 10 marks. **(3x10=30 marks)**

Part – A

Q.1 Attempt all. Each one carries 1 Mark

10 x 1 =10 Marks

- i. Which function of language focuses on establishing social relationships?
a) Expressive b) Referential c) Phatic d) Metalingual
- ii. What does code-switching refer to in sociolinguistics?
a. Changing one's dialect
b. Using multiple languages in conversation
c. Altering grammar rules
d. Adapting speech to different social settings
- iii. In semiotics, what does a signifier represent?
a. The physical form of a sign
b. The concept or meaning conveyed by a sign
c. The connection between sign and referent
d. The relationship between sign and context
- iv. What does cohesion refer to in discourse analysis?
a. Grammatical and lexical links within a text
b. The overall meaning of a text
c. The interaction between speakers
d. The context of a conversation
- v. Which aspect does stylistics primarily focus on?
a. Social context of language use b. Textual structure
c. Phonological features d. Historical evolution of languages
- vi. In Kamala Markandaya's "*Nectar in a Sieve*," how does the environment primarily impact the characters' lives?
a. Excessive urbanization b. Industrial pollution
c. Droughts and floods d. Deforestation

- vii. How does Amitav Ghosh's "*The Hungry Tide*" explore the relationship between humans and nature?
- Emphasizing technological advancements
 - Examining the impact of space exploration
 - Highlighting the Sunderbans and its ecological significance
 - Focusing on artificial intelligence's influence on ecosystems
- viii. In Ngugi waThiong'o's "*A Grain of Wheat*", how does displacement affect the characters' identities?
- Reinforces their cultural roots
 - Helps in reclaiming lost heritage
 - Leads to a sense of fragmentation
 - Encourages assimilation into the dominant culture
- ix. What aspect of identity does Nadine Gordimer's "*The Pickup*" primarily explore?
- Religious affiliation
 - Socio-economic status
 - Cultural displacement and identity
 - Political ideologies
- x. How do "*Nectar in a Sieve*" and "*The Hungry Tide*" reflect Eco-critical perspectives?
- By focusing solely on urban environmental issues
 - Through exploring the impact of human activities on ecosystems
 - By emphasizing technological solutions to environmental problems
 - By disregarding the connection between humans and nature

Part-B (Short Answer)

Note: Answer any Five (5) of the following questions (200 Words) 5 x 6 =30 Marks

- Explain the concept of the expressive function of language, providing examples.
- Discuss the role of sociolinguistics in understanding language variation across different social contexts.
- Define semiotics and elaborate on its significance in analyzing signs and symbols in communication.
- Describe how discourse analysis contributes to understanding the structure and coherence of texts.
- Explain how the setting of rural India in "*Nectar in a Sieve*" contributes to the eco-critical interpretation of the novel.
- In "*The Hungry Tide*" how do conflicts between human societies and natural ecosystems exemplify eco-critical themes?
- How does the theme of exile manifest in the characters of "*A Grain of Wheat*", and what implications does it hold in postcolonial interpretation?

9. Discuss the significance of cultural displacement in "*The Pickup*" by Nadine Gordimer and its relationship to postcolonial identity struggles.

Part-C (Essays)

Note: Answer any Three (3) of the following questions (500 Words) 3 x 10 =30 Marks

10. Explore the functions of language in society, emphasizing their roles in communication and social interaction.
11. Analyze the influence of social factors on language use, drawing examples from sociolinguistic studies.
12. Discuss the relationship between discourse and style, illustrating how stylistic features contribute to the interpretation of texts.
13. Explore and analyze the representation of environmental ethics and socio-political elements in "*Nectar in a Sieve*" and "*The Hungry Tide*" within the framework of eco-critical theory. How do these texts illustrate humanity's relationship with the environment?
14. Compare and contrast the themes of displacement and exile in "*A Grain of Wheat*" and "*The Pickup*". How do these novels reflect postcolonial issues of identity, belonging, and cultural alienation?