

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: **B.A. Linguistics**

III Semester Examination, November/December-2024

Course title: **Introduction to Sociolinguistics**

Course Code: **BNLX301DCT**

Time: **3Hours**

Total Marks: **70**

Note: This question paper consists of (3) 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 question.

Answer all questions. Each question carries (1) mark.

(10x1=10-marks)

Part-B contains (8) questions of which students are supposed to answer (5) questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks.

(5x6=30 marks)

Part-C contains (5) questions of which students are supposed to answer (3) questions. Answer each question in approximately 500 words .Each question carries (10) marks.

(3x10=30 marks)

PART-A

1. Attempt all. Each one carries one mark.

- i. What is regional variation in language?
 - a) Differences in language based on the occupation of speakers
 - b) Language variations that occur within specific geographical areas
 - c) The use of slang terms by younger speakers
 - d) Formal language used in academic settings
- ii. Which of the following is an example of variation based on a social group?
 - a) Different pronunciations of words in British and American English
 - b) Formal writing conventions in professional emails
 - c) Use of distinct vocabulary or pronunciation by people from a particular socioeconomic class
 - d) Regional dialects spoken across the United States
- iii. What is a dialect?
 - a) A formal variety of a language used in written documents
 - b) A variation of a language specific to a region or social group
 - c) A completely separate language with its own grammar
 - d) A version of a language that only uses slang
- iv. Which linguistic concept describes the phenomenon where a speaker adapts their language style based on social context, audience, or setting?
 - a) Code-switching
 - b) Regional dialect
 - c) Phoneme substitution
 - d) Syntax inversion
- v. In a diglossic society, what are the "high" and "low" language varieties typically used for?
 - a) Both are used interchangeably in all contexts
 - b) The "high" variety is used in formal settings, while the "low" variety is used in everyday conversation
 - c) The "low" variety is used in academic and legal contexts, while the "high" variety is used at home
 - d) The "high" variety is used for informal speech, and the "low" variety is for religious ceremonies
- vi. Which concept explains the phenomenon when speakers alternate between languages or dialects within a single conversation?
 - a) Cultural borrowing
 - b) Pidginization
 - c) Code-switching
 - d) Language shift

- vii. In sociolinguistics, the term "heterogeneous language competence" refers to:
 - a) A speaker's ability to perfectly replicate different dialects
 - b) The varied linguistic abilities of individuals within a speech community
 - c) A language system that lacks regional and social variation
 - d) A shared, unified linguistic system within a homogeneous group
- viii. In the context of sociolinguistics, the term "variation" refers to:
 - a) Different grammatical structures within a language that have no impact on meaning
 - b) Differences in language use that correlate with social factors such as age, gender, and ethnicity
 - c) Regional accents that develop in bilingual communities
 - d) The process of language death and endangerment
- ix. According to the Whorfian hypothesis, which of the following is an example of linguistic relativity?
 - a) All languages have equal capacity to express any idea.
 - b) Speakers of different languages perceive the world in distinct ways based on their language structure.
 - c) The process of code-switching depends on cultural awareness.
 - d) Multilingual individuals have cognitive advantages over monolingual speakers.
- x. Which statement about pidgins and creoles is correct?
 - a) Pidgins evolve directly into full languages, while creoles remain limited in scope and vocabulary.
 - b) Pidgins are used by native speakers, while creoles are only used in specific social contexts.
 - c) A pidgin may develop into a creole when it becomes the first language of a community.
 - d) Creoles are only used in formal contexts, while pidgins are limited to informal settings.

PART-B

2. Define sociolinguistics and explain its scope.
3. What is a speech community? Discuss how the concept of a speech community influences the linguistic identity of native speakers.
4. Explain the difference between a pidgin and a creole language.
5. Describe the concept of language maintenance and shift.
6. Define regional variation with suitable examples.
7. Briefly describe language variation based on uses.
8. Define *diglossia* and mention its characteristics.
9. Define the concept of lingua franca in the context of sociolinguistics.

PART-C

10. Describe how language variation can occur based on gender and provide an example of a language feature that might differ between male and female speakers.
11. Write a detailed note on dialect variation at the phonological, lexical, and morphosyntactic levels.
12. Describe the key components of the SPEAKING model as developed by Dell Hymes and illustrate how each component can influence communication within a particular speech community.
13. Discuss the key concepts in sociolinguistics, such as language and dialect, communicative competence, language variation, and the role of culture in language use.
14. Explain the role of *bilingualism*, *multilingualism*, and *language contact* in sociolinguistics.
