

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: **B.A. Linguistics**

III Semester Examination, November/December -2024

Course title: **Introduction to Pragmatics**

Course code: **BNLX301DET**

Time: **2 Hours**

Total Marks: **35**

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 (5) compulsory questions of multiple choice/fill in the blank/very short answer type question. Answer all questions. Each question carries (1) mark. **(5x1=5marks)**

Part-B contains (8) questions of which students are supposed to answer (5) questions. Answer each question in approximately **100 words**. Each question carries (4) marks. **(5x4=20marks)**

Part-C contains (2) questions of which students are supposed to answer (1) questions. Answer each question in approximately **250 words**. Each question carries (10) marks. **(1x10=10marks)**

Part-A

1. Answer the following. Each one carries one mark.

i. When a speaker asks, "Could you open the window?" but is actually making a polite request, this is an example of:

- A) Semantic meaning B) A direct speech act C) An indirect speech act D) Literal language

ii. Which of the following is not a primary focus in the field of pragmatics?

- A) Interpreting speaker's intentions in communication
B) Understanding how context shapes utterance meaning
C) Analyzing the literal meanings of isolated words D) Studying language use in specific social contexts

iii. What is entailment in the context of semantics?

- A) A type of speech act that conveys a promise
B) A relationship where the truth of one statement guarantees the truth of another
C) An assumption made by the speaker D) A method of constructing meaning through context

iv. Which of the following best defines presupposition?

- A) A type of argument used in persuasive writing
B) An implicit assumption made by a speaker that is taken for granted by the listener
C) A rhetorical device used to exaggerate a point
D) A method of analyzing sentence structure

v. What type of speech act does the sentence "I will come tomorrow" involve?

- A) Declarative B) Commissive C) Assertive D) Directive

Part-B

2. Describe how context influences meaning in pragmatics.
3. Discuss the relationship between pragmatics and semantics and how they differ in terms of meaning.
4. What is the difference between sentence meaning and utterance meaning in pragmatics?
5. Explain the role of deixis in pragmatic analysis. Discuss how person, place, and time deixis impact Interpretation.
6. Briefly discuss the importance of implicature in communication.
7. Briefly explain the four maxims of conversation with suitable examples.
8. Define presupposition and discuss its types.
9. What is entailment and how it differs from presupposition? Explain.

Part-C

10. Define pragmatics and discuss its scope in understanding human communication. How does pragmatics differ from other areas of linguistics?
11. Write a detailed essay on various types of speech act with suitable examples from English and your own languages.
