

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: B.A. (Hons)

VI Semester Examination April/May 2026

Course Title: **Linguistic Characteristics of South Asian Languages**

Course Code: **BNLX 602DCT**

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 answer 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 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

1. Attempt all.

- i. What does linguistic convergence refer to?
 - a. Language death
 - b. Languages becoming structurally similar due to contact
 - c. Borrowing only vocabulary
 - d. Loss of grammar
- ii. India is considered a linguistic area because:
 - a. It has one language
 - b. Languages share features due to contact
 - c. All languages are from one family
 - d. It has no dialects
- iii. Retroflex consonants are absent in which language family?
 - a. Indo-Aryan
 - b. Dravidian
 - c. Tibeto-Burman
 - d. Austroasiatic
- iv. Aspirated consonants are generally absent in:
 - a. Indo-Aryan languages
 - b. Dravidian languages
 - c. Hindi
 - d. Bengali
- v. Which of the following is a feature of South Asian languages?
 - a. Complex consonant clusters initially
 - b. Avoidance of consonant clusters
 - c. Prefix dominance
 - d. SVO order
- vi. South Asian languages predominantly use:
 - a. Prefixes
 - b. Suffixes
 - c. Infixes
 - d. No affixes
- vii. The collapse of the Sanskrit case system resulted in:
 - a. More inflection
 - b. Simplification of case marking
 - c. No grammar
 - d. Loss of verbs
- viii. Classifiers are commonly associated with:
 - a. Phonology
 - b. Syntax
 - c. Morphosyntax
 - d. Semantics only
- ix. Attributive constructions in South Asia often follow:
 - a. NP + Relative Clause
 - b. Relative Clause + NP
 - c. Verb + NP
 - d. NP only
- x. Honorific pronouns reflect:
 - a. Sound patterns
 - b. Social hierarchy
 - c. Sentence structure
 - d. Morphology only

Part-B

2. Define linguistic contact and convergence with an example.
3. Differentiate between aspirated and unaspirated consonants.
4. Write a note on retroflex consonants in South Asian languages.
5. Give an account of classifiers in South Asian languages.
6. Analyze the structure of relative clause constructions in South Asia.
7. Explain the importance of honorific pronouns in South Asian societies.
8. Comment on the Collapse of Sanskrit Case System with example.
9. Differentiate between languages that have vowel length contrast and those that do not, with examples.

Part-C

10. Elaborate on the concept of India as a linguistic area, highlighting the role of language contact and convergence.
11. Comment on the various common characteristics of south Asian languages.
12. Discuss the role of suffixes in South Asian languages.
13. Critically examine the system of kinship terms in South Asian languages and discuss how they reflect social and cultural relationships.
14. Illustrate the concept of agglutination with examples.
