



ENG508

Solved Mid-Term_Spring2026

ABSTRACT

This comprehensive collection of notes is accurately crafted to empower students to excel academically, ensuring they achieve a minimum of 80% marks in their examinations. The content is organized with clarity and precision, focusing on key concepts, critical analyses, and practical applications tailored to the syllabus. These notes serve as a reliable resource for both thorough preparation and last-minute revision. Designed to inspire confidence and mastery, this guide is an essential tool for students striving for academic excellence.

Maha Malik
Solved Mid-Term

1. Pragmatics is the branch of linguistics which includes:

- Meaning in context / language use.

2. Our culture and linguistic background are associated with:

- Linguistic Relativity (Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis).

3. The idea/meaning expressed by signifier is called:

- Signified.

✧ **4. Saussure distinguished between ____ and paradigmatic relations:**

- Syntagmatic relations.

5. The verb “Kill” is ____ causative:

- Lexical causative verb

6. Branch concerned with transmission of meaning through language in use:

- Pragmatics.

7. Semantic categories are defined in terms of ____ features:

- Contrastive features.

8. Entity towards which something is moved:

- Goal / Beneficiary

9. Difficulty arises from influence of ____ on word meaning:

- Context.

10. Affective meaning reflects ____ feelings of speakers:

- Personal feelings.

11. Source of literal meaning is ____ which gives meaning:

- Society.

12. Cultural and linguistic background associated with:

- Linguistic Relativity

13. An utterance may consist of a single:

- Word, phrase, or sentence.

14. Lexical relation is not just a:

- Semantic relation.

15. Entities who have the means to perform verb action:

- Agent

16. Idiom is a word combination to which no general rule applies:

- True.

17. Linguistics is part of general study of sign systems called:

- Semiotics.

18. Words like all, every, each are:

- Quantifiers.

19. Process by which institutionalized lexical meaning diverges:

- Semantic Change.

20. “Seema felt ill.” Seema is:

- Experiencer

21. Post-war philosophers did not use term pragmatic in language work:

- True

Short Questions (3 Marks)

1. Three major approaches of cognitive behavior

- Behaviorism
- Cognitivism

- Constructivism

2. Define Conceptual Meaning

Conceptual meaning (linguistic meaning) is the literal, dictionary meaning of a word or expression. It is also called denotative or cognitive meaning.

3. Define Semantic Innateness

The view that humans possess an inborn ability to understand and acquire meaning structures in language.

4. Three Features of Semantics

- Study of meaning
- Relationship between language and reality
- Analysis of lexical and sentence meaning

5. What is Semantics in Linguistics?

Semantics is the branch of linguistics that studies meaning in words, phrases, and sentences.

6. Explain Beneficiary and Instrument

- **Beneficiary:** Entity that benefits from an action.
- **Instrument:** Means used to perform an action.

7. What is Truth?

Truth is correspondence with facts or correct description of a state of affairs in the world.

8. What is Meaning?

Meaning is what words, phrases, or ideas convey and understand through language.

9. Advantages of Collocations

- Improve fluency
- Sound natural
- Enhance vocabulary
- Improve comprehension

10. Formal Grammar

A rule-based system describing how words combine to form grammatical sentences.

11. Semiotics

The study of signs and sign systems used to communicate meaning.

12. Three Phrasal Verbs

- Look after
- Give up
- Turn on

13. Morphological Derivation

✧ The process of creating a new word by adding prefixes or suffixes (e.g., happy → happiness).

14. Meronyms vary in three ways

1. Necessary parts (nose–face)
2. Usual but optional parts (collar–shirt)
3. Optional parts (cellar–house)

15. Fillmore's Six Cases (Names Only)

- Agentive
- Instrumental
- Dative
- Factitive
- Locative
- Objective

16. Define Proposition and Levels of Language

A proposition is the lowest level of language expressing a statement that can be true or false.

Levels:

- Proposition
- Sentence
- Utterance

17. What is Agent?

The entity that performs an action.

18. Proposition with Example

A proposition is the basic meaning unit.

Example: "**The earth revolves around the sun.**"

19. Utterance with Example

An utterance is a piece of language used in a specific context.

Example: "**Hello!**"

20. Case Grammar with Example

Case grammar explains semantic roles.

Example: **Ali opened the door with a key.**

- Agent = Ali
- Instrument = Key

21. What are Pragmatic Relations?

Relations involving meaning interpreted through context and language use.

22. Geoffrey Leech Definitions

- **Semantics:** Study of meaning in language.
- **Pragmatics:** Study of meaning in relation to speakers and context.

23. Lexical Relationships among Words

- Synonymy
- Antonymy
- Hyponymy
- Meronymy
- Polysemy

24. Context and Pragmatics (Fill in the Blanks)

Important terms:

- Context
- Speaker meaning
- Listener interpretation
- Social situation

Q. Define signifier, signified and sign or differentiate. (imp)

Signifier: Any material thing that signifies, e.g., words on a page, a facial expression, an image.

Signified: The concept that a signifier refers to Together, the signifier and the signified make up a meaning.

Sign: The smallest unit of meaning. Anything that can be used to communicate

Long Questions (5 Marks)

1. Charles Morris' Views about Pragmatics

Charles Morris considered pragmatics as the study of the relationship between signs and their users. He focused on how signs are interpreted and used in communication. His work connected language, signs, and human behavior.

2. Explain Causative Verb with Examples

Causative verbs describe causing a change of state. They show that one entity makes something happen.

Examples:

- The road widened.
- The city council widened the road.
- The teacher shortened the lesson.

3. Deontic Modality (Note with Examples)

Deontic modality expresses obligation, permission, or duty.

Examples:

- You **must** obey the rules.
- Students **may** leave early.

4. Literal vs Non-Literal Meaning

Literal Meaning	Non-Literal Meaning
Dictionary meaning	Figurative meaning
Factually true	Symbolic/imagined
Conceptual meaning	Metaphorical meaning
Example: "I am hungry."	Example: "I could eat a horse."

5. Note on Thematic Role and Patient

- **Thematic Roles** explain participant functions in an event.

- **Patient** is the entity affected by an action.

Example:

- Ali broke the glass.
- Agent = Ali
- Patient = Glass

6. Five Types of Antonyms with Examples

1. **Simple Antonyms** – alive/dead
2. **Gradable Antonyms** – hot/cold
3. **Taxonomy Sisters** – red/blue
4. **Reverses** – push/pull
5. **Converses** – buy/sell

7. Difference Between Morphological and Semantic Specification

Morphological Specification

Concerned with word structure

Studies affixes and word formation

Example: happy → happiness

Semantic Specification

Concerned with meaning

Studies concepts and meanings

Example: happy = feeling pleasure

8. Syntagmatic Relations in Lexical Relations

Syntagmatic relations occur between words that appear together in sequence. They form meaningful structures in phrases and sentences. For example, in **red car**, "red" and "car" are syntagmatically related.

9. Presupposition

Presupposition refers to assumptions that speakers and listeners take for granted for an utterance to make sense. It is information assumed to be known before communication.

10. Monosemy and Polysemy

- **Monosemy:** A word with one meaning.
- **Polysemy:** A word with multiple related meanings. Example: hook.

11. Three Features of Semantics

1. Studies meaning in language.
2. Examines relations between words and sentences.
3. Explains how language represents reality and conveys information.

12. Beneficiary and Instrument

Beneficiary: The participant who benefits from an action.

Example: *Sara baked a cake for her mother.*

Beneficiary = Mother.

Instrument: The object used to perform an action.

Example: *Ali cut the bread with a knife.*

Instrument = Knife.

These semantic roles help explain relationships among participants in a sentence.

BS English

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaazKAVBfxoDMH4l9U0u>

Compilation