

Linguistics MA Final Exam

Model Essay Questions



Choose TWO topics from the three listed below and write an essay of 300- 350 words about each topic. You have 120 minutes to write your essays.

1. What is the Merge Hypothesis? Provide empirical and conceptual evidence for this hypothesis and contrast it with the Glue Hypothesis. Use the string *small red books* to give arguments for and against these hypotheses.

2. Identify the types of implicature illustrated in (i) and (ii) below. Based on the examples, describe and compare the properties of these two types of implicature.

(i) A: *Are you going to Paul's party?*

B: *I have to work.*

(ii) *Some of my friends will come to the party.*

3. Write an essay concerning transfer effects during language acquisition. Be sure to comment on ideas such as the following: Is language transfer part of L1 or L2 acquisition and why? At what stage(s) of language acquisition does transfer occur? What is positive transfer? What is negative transfer? How can learners overcome negative transfer effects? Make sure to provide and discuss linguistic examples where relevant for illustration.