Linguistics 201 – Fall 08 Final Exam Review

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Syntax

- phrase structure rules, especially the handout
- constituency and tests for constituency

Semantics

- sense and reference
- lexical semantics (word meanings)
    - dictionary-style definitions
    - "mental image" definitions
    - usage-based definitions
    - hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy (converse/reverse)
- compositional semantics (meanings of larger structures)
    - Principle of Compositionality
    - truth conditions and truth values
    - possible scenarios ("possible worlds" or "ways things could be")
    - counterfactuals
    - sentence meanings analyzed using sets
    - adjective meanings: intersective, subsective adjectives

Pragmatics

- utterances and sentences
- utterance context: linguistic, situational, and social
- felicity
- conversational "rules" or maxims: quality, relevance, quantity, manner

- Cooperative Principle

- inferences

- entailment

- implicature (based on the maxims)

- flouting maxims

Acquisition

- innateness hypothesis

- linguistic universals and unversal grammar

- critical period

- Imitation Theory

- Reinforcement Theory

- Active Construction of a Grammar Theory

- Connectionist Theories

- Social Interaction Theory

Language Change

- syncrhonic and diachronic linguistics

- Proto-Indo-European (PIE)

- language family tree

- language relatedness (similarity)

- language non-arbitrariness (as a reason for similarity)

- regularity hypothesis

- relatedness hypothesis

- comparative method and reconstruction

- regularity of sound change

- conditioned and unconditioned sound change

- types of sound change

- phonetic versus phonemic change

Language Variation

- language variety

- reasons for variation

- dialect (as a technical term in linguistics)

- idiolect

- slang (as compared to dialect)

- in-group slang

- jargon

- mutual intelligibility

- dialect continuum

- speech communities and isolation

- prestige and language variation: covert and overt prestige

- prescriptive standard

- "standard" and "nonstandard" dialects

- hypercorrection