Advanced Linguistic Knowledge

Linguistics · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which linguist is credited with proposing the 'Politeness Principle' as a complement to Grice's Cooperative Principle?

A) Geoffrey Leech
B) Stephen Levinson
C) Penelope Brown
D) Erving Goffman

2. In the context of optimality theory, what is the term for the set of constraints that are never violated in a given language?

A) Ranking
B) Faithfulness
C) Strictness
D) Domination

3. Which language family is hypothesized to be related to Turkic, Mongolic, and Tungusic languages in the 'Altaic' grouping?

A) Uralic
B) Austronesian
C) Koreanic
D) Sino-Tibetan

4. What is the technical term for a speech sound produced by closing the glottis and then releasing it?

A) Ejective
B) Implosive
C) Glottal stop
D) Click

5. According to the 'Bickerton's Language Bioprogram Hypothesis', what linguistic phenomenon arises when children create a grammatical system from a pidgin?

A) Creolization
B) Code-switching
C) Diglossia
D) Borrowing

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6. The 'Grimm's Law' describes a series of sound shifts affecting which specific language branch?

A) Romance languages
B) Proto-Indo-European consonants
C) Semitic vowels
D) Bantu noun classes

7. Which syntactician developed the 'Government and Binding' theory in the 1980s?

A) Roman Jakobson
B) Noam Chomsky
C) Morris Halle
D) Edward Sapir

8. What is the 'Wh-island constraint' primarily concerned with in syntactic theory?

A) Phonological mapping
B) Movement of phrases
C) Morphological inflection
D) Lexical selection

9. In sociolinguistics, what is the term for the use of two or more languages in a single conversation by a bilingual speaker?

A) Diglossia
B) Code-switching
C) Pidginization
D) Lingua franca

10. Which writing system is technically classified as an 'abugida'?

A) Latin
B) Devanagari
C) Arabic
D) Hangul

11. What does the 'Sapir-Whorf hypothesis' in its strongest form (linguistic determinism) suggest?

A) Language influences culture
B) Language determines thought
C) Thought determines language
D) Language has no impact on cognition

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12. Which of these describes a 'fusional' language?

A) Multiple morphemes per word, each with one meaning
B) One morpheme per word
C) Multiple meanings per single morpheme
D) No morphology at all

13. What is the primary focus of 'Gapping' in the study of syntax?

A) Ellipsis of a verb in a coordinate structure
B) The insertion of stop consonants
C) The gap between vowels in a syllable
D) Phonetic shift in dialects

14. The 'Great Vowel Shift' primarily affected which stage of the English language?

A) Old English to Middle English
B) Middle English to Early Modern English
C) Early Modern to Present Day
D) Proto-Germanic to Old English

15. What is the function of an 'ergative-absolutive' alignment system?

A) Marking the subject of transitive verbs differently from intransitive subjects
B) Marking the direct object with a suffix
C) Assigning gender to all nouns
D) Linking adjectives to nouns

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