

PROFICIENCY EXAM SAMPLE QUESTIONS KEY AND TAPESCRIPTS

PART I: LISTENING:

Lecture:

1. C 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. B 6. A

Conversation:

7. B 8. A 9. D 10. C 11. B

PART II: READING

Sample Text:

12. C 13. B 14. A 15. C 16. D 17. B 18. D

Part III: USE OF LANGUAGE

Grammar:

19. D 20. C 21. D 22. A 23. D

Vocabulary:

24. A 25. B 26. C 27. B 28. D

LECTURE (15 PTS)

Tapescript:

A professor:

Hello everyone and welcome to today's SOCIAL LINGUSTICS CLASS.

Let's start with a small talk about world languages. I'm sure you all know that many of the languages of the world are in danger of disappearing. Thousands of languages have already become extinct, and thousands more may die out in one or two generations. Unfortunately, in this way, many of the world's languages will soon be gone.

But why? What makes a language die? What makes others more dominant...? Any ideas...?

Well, let me answer this one:

The greatest threat to linguistic diversity is the dominance of a small handful of languages. In other words, some languages such as *Chinese, Spanish* and *English* are more dominant than others in the world.

But how could they become more dominant? Let me explain.

First, these widely-spoken languages currently play the largest roles in ***trade and communication***. **For instance,** business people, educators, science people, and so on, prefer these dominant languages.

Second, these dominant languages ***are spoken more widely because the number of people who speak these dominant languages is very large***. In other words, many, **many (!)** people speak these languages.

Finally, ***many bilingual speakers prefer a socially dominant language and don't use the minor one;*** as a result, in many homes, ***children cannot learn the minor language***.

Because of all these reasons, after a couple of generations, it becomes impossible to find a person who speaks some of these languages. These languages are left to die.

Today the world has a HUGE population with people speaking **many** different languages. They have to communicate but at the same time they have to protect their native languages. Well, what is the solution to this problem?

It's ESPERANTO!!

[Slowly] E – S – P – E – R – A – N – T – O

So, what is *Esperanto*?

It is the most widely spoken constructed international secondary language. Let's have a look at some general and historical information about Esperanto...

Esperanto is a language which was introduced to the world in 1887 by Dr. Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof after years of development. *As I mentioned before, it is a **constructed language**. In other words, it was artificially created by Dr. Zamenhof. It is not a natural language like German or Turkish or Vietnamese. The elements of Esperanto, such as pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary, are based on the European languages. In other words, European languages have many effects on Esperanto.*

Why did Dr. Zamenhof want to create a new language? *Because he grew up in a small region of Russia with a diverse ethnic population. He said in his memoirs there had been a lot of people from different ethnic backgrounds, and they spoke many different languages. They couldn't understand each other well, which caused a number of communication breakdowns.*

As a result, he came up with the idea to create an easy-to-learn language which allows people who speak different native languages to communicate, yet at the same time, keep their own languages and cultural identities. Dr. Zamenhof wanted to improve peace and international understanding among people.

All right friends, let's move on to the advantages of Esperanto.

According to *Esperantists*, (that is, people who use Esperanto as a secondary or native language), there are many advantages.

- **First**, it doesn't replace anyone's language but simply serves as a common second language. **That is**, it helps to protect minority languages and cultures.
- **Second**, it is four times easier to learn than learning a dominant natural language. **In other words**, it can be learned easily in much less time than any other language.
- **Third**, it is politically neutral. It doesn't represent any political or cultural view of any particular nation.

Let us summarize the advantages. It doesn't replace any language. It is easier to learn and it doesn't represent any political and cultural view.

Although there aren't many Esperantists – people who speak Esperanto – in any one place, there are some almost everywhere. Esperanto has a notable presence in over a hundred countries. **Usage is highest in Europe, East Asia, and South America.** Currently, estimates of Esperanto speakers range from **100,000 to 2,000,000 active or fluent speakers worldwide**. Also, there are **a thousand native speakers** who learned Esperanto from birth as one of their native languages.

Let me repeat that: **Europe, East Asia, and South America are the places where Esperanto is widely spoken. There are about 100,000 to 2,000,000 active or fluent speakers and there are about a thousand native speakers worldwide.**

Maybe you want to learn how to learn Esperanto. Well, there are many sources for Esperanto learners.

First: *There are over a hundred magazines regularly published in Esperanto.*

Second: *There are thousands of books in Esperanto, both translated and original works.*

Third: *There are also millions of Esperanto web pages on the Internet. For instance, Lernu-dot-net is the most popular online Esperanto learning platform.*

Okay guys, let me wrap up today's topic.

To sum up, Esperanto was defined as a language of international communication, more precisely as a universal second language. Ever since its introduction in 1887, there has been debate over whether it is possible for Esperanto to attain this position. We will see what will happen to Esperanto in the future...

All right friends! That's all for today!

Thank you, and see you tomorrow.

CONVERSATION (10 PTS)

Tapescript:

Reporter: Today, we will be having a talk about the effects of mass media on people's lives with a special focus on children. Our guest is a psychologist from the National State Hospital: Dr. Williams. Welcome to our program, Dr. Williams.

Psychologist: *Thank you for inviting me to your program.*

Reporter: Ok, Dr. Williams. How much do we know about the effects of the media today?

Psychologist: *I don't think that we're realizing too much. I mean we know some things but we just ignore it because mass media are already a part of our life. You often see a world where these media can control and alter human life.*

Reporter: What are the major effects of mass media on children?

Psychologist: *Well, animations, television and computers are facts of life for today's people, especially children. The effect of TV – as the most recent and spectacular electrical extension of our central nervous systems – is hard to grasp for a number of reasons since mass media have affected the totality of our lives, personal, social and political. One reason children are so vulnerable to the messages from television is that they take what they see on television to be reality. Very young children equate all of television with reality.*

Reporter: Why do you think children prefer to spend more time in front of the television today?

Psychologist: *Traditionally, parents had served as the primary social models for children; and other models may include siblings, teachers, relatives and other persons who are significant in children's lives.*

Reporter: Is the situation different today?

Psychologist: *Definitely yes. Over time, parents' influence on their children has been on the decline. You know this is the direct or indirect result of technological advancement and changes in household economics. Aside from their busy schedules, today's families seem only to get together rarely. Each member of a family has easy access to his or her own television, telephone, computer, music player, and so on.*

Reporter: Let me guess. This means that children spend less time interacting with their parents? They generally spend time on their own, right?

Psychologist: *Correct. Children turn their attention from their parents to more accessible diversions such as watching television.*

Reporter: Then shouldn't parents have control of their children's television viewing?

Psychologist: *Yes, they should; because without parental guidance, television viewing may be excessive and uncontrolled. The mass media are full of excitement and wonder for children. In fact, they are the biggest competitors for the hearts and minds of children. These media bring children a world of so-called reality and make them believe that what they see is real.*

Reporter: Then, we can conclude that our society is surrounded by media. And the media have both negative and positive effects. Therefore, parents should be aware of these effects to protect their children from any possible negative influences.

Psychologist: *Definitely right.*

Reporter: Well, thank you very much, Dr. Williams, for sharing your opinions with us. I believe that many parents have benefited much from our program today.