

國立彰化師範大學 102 學年度碩士班招生考試試題

系所：英語學系

組別：甲組、乙組

科目：英文(含作文與翻譯)

☆☆請在答案紙上作答☆☆

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I. Reading Comprehension: After reading the whole passage, answer the followed ten questions by choosing the best answer from the four options. (20%)

One of the basic assumptions of modern linguistics is that speech is primary and writing is secondary. The most immediate manifestation of language is speech. Writing is simply the representation of speech in another physical medium. Spoken language encodes thought into a physically transmittable form, while writing, in turn, encodes spoken language into a physically preservable form. Writing is a two-stage process. All units of writing, whether letters or characters, are based on units of speech, i.e. words, sounds, or syllables. When linguists study language, they take the spoken language as their best source of data and their object of description.

There are several reasons for maintaining that speech is primary and writing is secondary. First, writing is a later historical development than spoken language. Current archeological evidence indicates that writing was first utilized in Sumer, modern-day Iraq, about 6,000 years ago. As far as physical and cultural anthropologist can tell, spoken language has probably been used by humans for hundreds of thousands of years.

Second, writing does not exist everywhere that spoken language exists. This seems hard to imagine in our highly literate society, but the fact is that there are still many communities in the world where a written form of language is not used, and even in those cultures using a writing system, there are individuals who fail to learn the written form of their language. In fact, the majority of the Earth's inhabitants are illiterate, though quite capable of spoken communication. However, no society uses only a written language with no spoken form.

Third, writing must be taught, whereas spoken language is acquired automatically. All children, except children with serious learning disabilities, naturally learn to speak the language of the community in which they are brought up. They acquire the basics of their native language before they enter school, and even if they never attend school, they become fully competent speakers. **Writing systems vary in complexity, but regardless of their level of sophistication, they must all be taught.**

Finally, neurolinguistic evidence demonstrates that the processing and production of written language is overlaid on the spoken language centers in the brain. Spoken language involves several distinct areas of the brain; writing uses these areas and others as well.

So what gives rise to the misconception? There are several reasons. For one thing, the product of writing is usually more aptly worded and better organized, containing fewer errors, hesitations, and incomplete sentences than are found in speech. This perfection of writing can be explained by the fact

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that writing is the result of **deliberation**, correction, and revision, while speech is the spontaneous and simultaneous formulation of ideas; writing is therefore less subject to the constraint of time than speech is. In addition, writing is ultimately associated with education and educated speech. Since the speech of the educated is more often than not set up as the “standard language,” writing is associated indirectly with the varieties of language that people tend to view as “correct.” However, the association of writing with the standard variety is not a necessary one, as evidenced by the attempts of writers to transcribe faithfully the speech of their characters. Mark Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn*, and John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men* contain examples of this.

Furthermore, because spoken language is physically no more than sound waves through the air, it is **transient**, but writing tend to last, because of its physical medium, and can be preserved for a very long time. Spelling does not seem to vary from individual to individual or from place to place as easily as pronunciation does. Thus, writing has the appearance of being more stable. Spelling does vary, however, as exemplified by the differences between the American ways of spelling of *gray* and words with the suffixes *-ize* and *-ization* as compared with British spelling of *grey* and *-ise* and *-isation*. Writing could also change if it were made to follow the changes of speech. The fact that people at various times try to carry out spelling reforms amply illustrates **this possibility**.

1. According to the passage, what can be inferred about linguistic research?
 - (A) Studies always required several sources.
 - (B) Linguists do not usually study Latin.
 - (C) Researchers prefer speech samples.
 - (D) Research on writing is much easier.
2. According to paragraph 3, what is true about literacy?
 - (A) Many people fail to become literate because it is difficult.
 - (B) The modern world has a very highly literate population.
 - (C) Literate populations are more capable than other groups.
 - (D) Only a minority of the world’s population can read and write.
3. Which of the sentence below best expresses the information in the highlighted statement in the passage?
 - (A) All writing has to be taught because the systems are variable.
 - (B) Both simple and complex writing systems require direct instruction.
 - (C) In spite of complex features in writing systems, people can learn them.
 - (D) Writing that has a very complex system must be learned

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4. Why does the author mention Mark Twain and John Steinbeck in paragraph 6?
- (A) To provide examples of two good writing styles.
 - (B) To prove that a nonstandard variety can be written.
 - (C) To contrast varieties of speech for their characters.
 - (D) To demonstrate the speech cannot be transcribed.
5. The word deliberation in the paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to _____.
- (A) thought
 - (B) intelligence
 - (C) information
 - (D) generation
6. According to paragraph 7, what is true about spelling?
- (A) Pronunciation in English is not related to spelling changes.
 - (B) Spelling does not change from one geographical region to another.
 - (C) British and American spellings are more similar than pronunciation.
 - (D) Changes of spelling are occasionally initiated because of speech.
7. The word transient in the passage is closest in meaning to _____.
- (A) interesting
 - (B) unimportant
 - (C) temporary
 - (D) fossilizing
8. Which of the following statement most closely represents the author's opinions?
- (A) Writing is not more perfect than speech.
 - (B) Standard speech is the best model for writing.
 - (C) Writing should not change like speech does.
 - (D) Speech and writing have historical similarities.
9. The phrase this possibility in the passage refers to _____.
- (A) the change of speech
 - (B) writing could also change
 - (C) spelling reforms illustrate
 - (D) people try to carry out
10. How does the author organize the passage?
- (A) Cause and effect
 - (B) Contrastive analysis
 - (C) Chronological narrative
 - (D) Persuasive argument

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II. Translation: Please translate the following passages into English. (20%)

1. 經濟學家正對全球新一波的經濟危機—通貨緊縮，提出嚴重警告。通貨緊縮和通貨膨脹相反，是一種物價長時間全面下跌的狀況，它會導致消費支出下滑及失業人數增加的惡性循環。如果通貨緊縮未受到控制，經濟衰退就會演變成經濟蕭條。(10%)
2. 天文學家相信，像星星一樣的神祕物體—小行星，是太陽系在形成過程中所留下來的碎片，曾經偶然的撞向地球。據推測，幾千萬年前將恐龍一舉消滅的，可能就是一顆行徑無常的小行星。(10%)

III. English Composition: (60%)

For many years the birth rates of Taiwan have been among the lowest in the world. Please explain the reasons that may contribute to this phenomenon. Elaborate your reasons, and if necessary, support the reasons with examples/evidences.