

淡江大學 98 學年度博士班招生考試試題

29

系別：英文學系 B 組

科目：語 言 學

本試題共 3 大題，1 頁

1. Look at the following two sentences:

- *The legend of Bigfoot is generally believed by people in North America, and the Yeti has a bigger fan base around the Himalayan region of Nepal and Tibet.*
- *His President's intuition told him that the new bill won't be passed by the Senate on Tuesday.*

The above two sentences are ambiguous in some way, please point out and discuss the ambiguity in each sentence. Do you think the ambiguity is formed in the same way in both sentences? Please also give three more examples to show the similar way of which the ambiguity arises. (35%)

2. In many societies the speech of men differs from the speech of women. For example in Japan, males and females use entirely different words for numerous concepts (e.g. the male word for water is *mizu*, the female version is *ohiya*), and the females often add the polite prefix *o-* (female will tend to say *ohasi* for chopsticks; males will tend to say *hasi*). In your opinion, does English promote sexist thinking, or does the language merely reflect gender inequalities that already exist? Give examples from the perspectives of both the structure and the usage/metaphor of the language to support your argument. (30%)

3. **"All human languages, whether living or dead, have structure."** One indication of this is from the theory of Universal Grammar (UG), the grammatical structures that are shared by most (if not all) human languages. Please (1) provide examples from UG to demonstrate the statement marked in bold, and (2) specifically give demonstrations from Mandarin Chinese to further prove this concept. (35%)