Roll No.												

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY

BENGALURU

End - Term Examinations – December 2025

Date: 05-12-2025 **Time:** 01:00pm – 04:00pm

School: COMMON TO ALL SCHOOL	**Program:** COMMON TO ALL PROGRAM	
Course Code: ENG1912	**Course Name:** LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETATION	
Semester: OE	**Max Marks**: 100	**Weightage**: 50%

CO - Levels	CO1	CO2	CO3	CO4	CO5
Marks	6	8	26	30	30

Instructions:

(i) Read all questions carefully and answer accordingly.

(ii) Do not write anything on the question paper other than roll number.

Part A

Answer ALL the Questions. Each question carries 2marks. **10Q x 2M=20M**

1.	Explain the 'arbitrary nature of sign' with one example.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO1**
2.	Explain the arbitrary nature of the Sign.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO1**
3.	List the major branches of linguistics.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO1**
4.	How is meaning created/interpreted at the sentence level?	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO2**
5.	List two differences between referring and non-referring expressions.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO2**
6.	Briefly explain the 'Prototype Theory'.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO2**
7.	Distinguish between denotative and connotative meaning at the word level.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO2**
8.	What is conversational implicature?	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO3**
9.	List the five speech acts as discussed by Searle.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO3**
10.	State the co-operative principle of conversation.	**2 Marks**	**L1**	**CO3**

Part B

Answer the Questions. **Total Marks 80M**

11.	**a.**	Data: (a) "I can't believe you did that." (b) "I can't believe you did that!" (c) "I can't believe you did that?!" (d) "I can't believe you did that…" Discuss the role of punctuation in written texts. With reference to the data given above, comment on how punctuation influences the tone or pragmatic meaning of written text, especially in digital contexts.	**10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO4**
		Or			
12.	**a.**	Discuss the role of sentence structure in determining tone in written texts. Using examples from everyday writing, explain how variations contribute to differences in tone.	**10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO4**

13.	**a.**	Critically comment on efficiency of AI language models in understanding language.	**10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO5**
		Or			
14.	**a.**	Discuss your understanding of how AI reads/interprets meanings and misinterprets them.	**10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO5**

15.	**a.**	Explain the role of co-operative principle of conversation in having successful communication, with suitable examples.	**10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO3**
		Or			
16.	**a.**	Describe the three components of Austin's speech acts. Create a short dialogue to illustrate the point.	**10 Marks**	**L2**	**CO3**

17.	**a.**	Dialogue: A: It's quite chilly in here. B: I'll close the window. Using Austin's Speech Act Theory, describe the 3 speech acts in the dialogue and analyze how the speaker's meaning is interpreted.	**10 Marks**	**L3**	**CO3**
		Or			

18.	**a.**	Dialogue: A: (looks at a messy room) Wow, your room is *so clean*! B: I'll tidy it up right now… Using Austin's Speech Act Theory, describe the 3 speech acts in the dialogue and analyze how the speaker's meaning is interpreted.	**10 Marks**	**L3**	**CO3**

19.	**a.**	Distinguish between the following pairs of tones with suitable examples: formal/informal, pessimistic/optimistic, sarcastic/cooperative, and aggressive/informative. Identify the linguistic elements that create the differences in tone in each pair.	**20 Marks**	**L2**	**CO4**
Or					
20.	**a.**	What is tone? Elaborate on the Linguistic Cues that determine how tone is conveyed in a written text. Discuss how misinterpretation of tone can lead to communication breakdowns.	**20 Marks**	**L2**	**CO4**

21.	**a.**	Dialogue: User: Oh, great! Another software update right in the middle of my workday. AI Assistant: I'm glad you're excited about the update! Dialogue: A: It's getting quite dark in here. AI Assistant: Yes, the sun has set. Explain pragmatic miscommunication. With both the data given above, identify and analyze pragmatic miscommunication.	**20 Marks**	**L3**	**CO5**
Or					
22.	**a.**	Using your understanding of linguistic interpretation, critically analyze how AI systems interpret human language. Discuss with relevant examples how meaning construction differs between humans and AI across semantic and pragmatic levels.	**20 Marks**	**L3**	**CO5**