

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
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Department of English

Applied Linguistics Examination / First Semester / Master 2 - DLE

Answer the following questions in no more than the space provided.

1. Even though applied linguistics now addresses a wide range of language-related problems, research connected to foreign language teaching still dominates the field. Discuss (6pts).

1. Historically, applied linguistics emerged largely in response to practical problems in language teaching, particularly after World War II, when there was a growing need for effective methods of teaching foreign languages. Early applied linguists focused on syllabus design, teaching methodology, error analysis, and second language acquisition (SLA).
2. Foreign language teaching remains central to applied linguistics because of its strong presence in universities and teacher education programs. Many applied linguistics departments are closely linked to language teaching units, and a large proportion of applied linguists are trained as language teachers.

2. "A language dies when the last person who speaks it dies" (Crystal, 2010). Explain the reasons behind language death (7pts).

1. A natural disaster, such as an earthquake or a tsunami, can destroy towns and villages, and kill many people. If the people are dead or if their community is devastated, then their language will die out too.
2. Governments can stop people using their language. If a language is banned, and the children are forbidden to learn it, it will soon die out.
3. In most cases, people stop using their first language because they decide to use a different one because the new language promises a better kind of life

3. Stability exists only in languages that are no longer in use. All living languages undergo change, with some features evolving more rapidly than others. Discuss (7pts).

1. All living languages change. They have to. Languages have no existence apart from the people who use them. And because people are changing all the time, their language change too, too, to keep up with them.
2. Vocabulary is the area where we most often notice the way language changes, because each year hundreds of words arrive in a language.
3. Grammar is slower than vocabulary to change. It might take 100 years or more before a change in grammar comes to be used by everyone.
4. Changes in pronunciation also take a while to spread throughout society.
5. The area of language which changes most slowly is the writing system.