UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

LINGUISTICS ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENT

DECEMBER 2017   60 minutes

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INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Do not worry if you find you have little to say about some of the questions, or if you do not have technical terms for the features you wish to describe. How you go about finding answers and how you prioritise your time in producing the answers is more important to us than seeing a complete answer for each question in the test. Aim to spend about 20 minutes on each section. Your answers will be marked on the assumption that you have divided your time roughly equally between the 3 sections.

SECTION 1 (total value 30 marks)   (20 mins)

Consider the data below from Anastule, a fictitious language, and then answer the questions that follow.

The intermediate ("gloss") lines contain the following abbreviations:

2SG	second person singular (= 'you')	PAST	past tense
3SG	third person singular (= 'he, she, it')	FUT	future tense
3PL	third person plural (= 'they')	INFIN	infinitive (e.g. 'to read'/'to eat')
PL	plural	NEG	negative marker
DEF	definite marker (= 'the')	POSS	possessive marker (marks 'one's own')
ASP	aspectual marker (conveys that the action has been completed and is not ongoing)		
INTER	interrogative marker (to indicate that it is a question)		
MOD	mood (conveys how the action should be interpreted, i.e., as a wish, a command, an uncertainty, a probability, a fact)		

The Anastule data

(a) to petuni ta tolumb-a   e-kalamitse-s-i
    DEF wolf DEF sheep-PL PAST-eat-ASP-3SG
    'The wolf ate the sheep.'

(b) ta tolumb-a   xasilia e-kalamitsev-an   sa   paxta
    DEF sheep-PL grass PAST-eat-3PL   in-DEF forest
    'The sheep were eating grass in the forest.'

(c) ta petuni-a uts e-lores-an   kalamitse-s-ene ta   tolumb-a
    DEF wolf-PL   NEG PAST-can-3PL eat-ASP-INFIN   DEF sheep-PL
    'The wolves couldn't eat the sheep.'

(d) kats ton pedan-at   uts e-palalo-s-i?
    who DEF child-POSS NEG PAST-love-ASP-3SG
    'Who doesn't love their (own) child?'