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THE STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH

C.T.E.-2

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**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
Papers**

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QUESTION PAPER

Exam Held in
February – 2021

(Solved)

THE STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH

C.T.E.-2

Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Question 1 is compulsory. Out of the rest, answer any four. You have to answer five questions in all.

Q. 1. Write short notes on the following:

(a) The difference between dialect and accent

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-1, Page No. 5, 'Dialect and Accent'.

(b) Factors which make a text coherent

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-4, Page No. 27-28, 'The Role of Coherence'.

(c) Different types of question formation

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-8, Page No. 58, 'Types of Questions'.

(d) Compound words

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-13, Page No. 107, 'Compounding'.

(e) Stress and Rhythm in English

Ans. Speech is a continuous stream of sounds, without clear-cut borderlines between them. Stress and rhythm are the key to gaining a natural, smooth-flowing style of speech. People do not speak in separate words, they speak in logical connected groups of words. Even native speakers sometimes "stumble over their words" because they are unaware of the "little tricks" for avoiding the pitfalls. Thus, the teaching of stress and rhythm should be highly valued. In English there's a strong tendency in connected speech to make the stressed syllables occur at fairly regular intervals. This regular re-occurrence of stressed syllable is rhythm. Generally speaking, rhythm consists of intonation, syllables of stress and weak stress, pause and continuant. So, besides the mastery of sentence and word stress, it is as equally important for English learners to recognize the stress-timed rhythm. Students should be able to develop

sensitivity to English rhythm and therefore contribute to a new articulatory habit.

Also Ref: See Chapter-18, Page No. 148, 'Stress and Rhythm in Connected Speech'.

(f) Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-12, Page No. 97, 'Simple, Complex and Compound Sentence'.

(g) Affixes in English

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-14, Page No. 112, 'Affixes and Roots'.

Q. 2. What are the factors which led to the Indianisation of English? Discuss.

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-2, Page No. 13, 'Indianisation of English-I'.

Q. 3. Discuss the 'structure' of a conversation, giving examples where necessary.

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-5, Page No. 36, 'An Analysis of Conversation', 'Feed-back or back Channel Cues and Repair' and Page No. 37, 'Opening and Closing of Conversation'.

Q. 4. Describe the different types of negation in English. Give examples to illustrate the difference.

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-8, Page No. 57, 'Types of Negative Sentences'.

Q. 5. Discuss the difference between derivational and inflectional morphology. Illustrate your answer with examples.

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-14, Page No. 113, 'Different Types of Affixes : Inflectional and Derivational'.

Q. 6. Describe in detail the consonants of English.

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-17, Page No. 137, 'The Consonants of English'.

Q. 7. (a) Distinguish between Restrictive and Non-Restrictive clauses.

Ans. Ref. See Chapter-10, Page No. 79, 'Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Relative Clause'.

(b) Convert the following pairs of sentences into structures with a relative clause:

(i) Professor Chomsky teaches at M.I.T. He is one of the most famous linguists today.

(ii) The lady opened the door. She said you were not home.

(iii) The book was missing from the library. It was with our teacher.

(iv) The gold chain disappeared. It was on the table.

(v) The heart is divided into two parts. It is the size of a fist.

Ans. (i) Professor Chomsky, who teaches at MIT, is one of the most famous linguists today.

(ii) The lady, who opened the door, told that you were not at home.

(iii) The book that was missing from the library was with our teacher.

(iv) The gold chain that had disappeared was on the table.

(v) The heart which is divided into two parts and is the size of a fist.

■ ■

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Sample Preview of The Chapter

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THE STRUCTURE OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH AND ITS VARIETIES



Native and Non-native Varieties of English

INTRODUCTION

Language is never uniform, rather it varies. It is not that the variety of language is marked only by the geographical boundaries, but also by social, class, sex and so on. Even in a single family one can find difference between the speech patterns of its different members. Every individual possess a unique speech pattern that is why many a time we are able to identify people by their speech peculiarities. These individual unique varieties are called 'idiolect'.

These 'idiolect' may not be able to highlight itself when look from the broader prospective at a community. At this stage, one may be able to identify certain differences in use of language among different communities. This is what we called 'dialects'. These dialects when become popular they take the status of international level, and when they are standardised they are called standard variety of the language. In the entry for 'Standard English' in *The Oxford Companion to the English Language* (1992), Tom McArthur observes that this 'widely used term . . . resists easy definition but is used as if most educated people nonetheless know precisely what it refers to'. English, as we all know has attained status of a global language over the past two centuries. It is being spoken in almost all parts of the world thus we have different dialects and varieties of English, which commonly can be classified into British English, American English, Australian English,

Indian English and so on. All the varieties of English spoken in these different countries are different from each other in various aspects. Let us now take a deeper look into the variations and varieties of the language and understand the concept of native and non-native varieties of the language.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

NATIVE VARIETIES OF ENGLISH Speech Community/Native Language

In order to understand the concept of language variation, it is important that we first understand the term 'native language', and to understand this term we first need to take a look at the term 'speech community'. Speech community is a concept in sociolinguistic that describes a more or less discrete group of people who use language in a unique and mutually accepted way among themselves. The notion of speech community has been one of the key concepts in sociolinguistics since its beginning. The speech community is the locus of most sociolinguistic and anthropological-linguistic research, indeed all linguistic research that is accountable to a body of naturally-occurring speech or signed data. It represents the social boundaries within which analyst, and seeks to describe and account for, language variation and change, ways of speaking and pattern of choice among elements in a linguistic repertoire.

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As linguistics has explained steadily away from the narrow concerns of the structuralism, the role of production and system – the actual linguistic features, and their arrangements – in defining the speech community has gradually shrunk, and that of the social evaluation of speech has grown.

To define speech community is a matter of fact a debatable matter. Definitions of speech community tend to involve varying degrees of emphasis on the following:

- (a) Shared community membership
- (b) Shared community language
- (c) Distinguishable community from others
- (d) Frequent interaction and communication

Different people have tried to explain this term in their own way. Charles Hockett defines it as ‘each language defines speech community: the whole set of people who communicate words each other, either directly or indirectly, via a common language’. According to John Lyons, ‘all the people who use a given language (or dialect)’ make a speech community. A new dimension was added in the definition of speech community by Gumpres in 1968. According to him a speech community is ‘any human aggregate characterised by regular and frequent interaction by means of a shared body of verbal signs (language/dialect/variety) and set off from similar aggregates by significant differences in language use’.

On the surface the definition and the concept of speech community may sound simple but a closer analysis would make us encounter with several problems and confusion that may arise with the definitions of speech community or the various ways it has been defined by different intellectuals. As mentioned earlier that one basic base of discrimination of speech communities is the language. ‘People who share same language for communication’ this statement seems to be very reasonable and attractive. It might be, if we consider a small tribe where the members of the tribe share a common social background and languages. They live in isolation and have nothing to do with the rest of the world. Now, such a tribe seems to be a perfect example of a speech community based on the discrimination of language and socio-geographical boundaries. But the problem arrives when we consider some of the major international language of the world. Consider English, one of the largest spoken languages in the world. People who speak

English are spread across the globe in geographical location and have different social backgrounds. All these people can never be considered as a part of one speech community. Even if we consider only native speakers of English to be the part of English speech community then also we are left with the countries like America, England, Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. The conflict and difference between, so called English speech community are universal. And that is why we distinguish them as American speech community, British speech community, Australian speech community, and so on. Thus we see that how one speech community has been divided in several. Yet it is not the end of division. For instance, consider British speech community, is an amalgamation of different geographical dimensions of English like Scottish English, Irish English, Welsh English, and so on. The division never ends as it will further go to the social level as shown in the Labov’s study of language variation within the society, thus the speech community – discrimination on the basis of language – collapses.

Another factor that according the definition plays an important role in the segregation of speech community viz. frequent interaction and communication also seems to be problematic. Again taking an example of a small group or tribe might makes one satisfied as frequent communication and interaction very much possible but considered a language that is being spoken by millions and billions of people seems to be a problem like a large wall in front of the nose of a traveller. Take India for example, in India Hindi is spoken by large number of people who are spread across the country. Many Hindi speakers are even outside the country in different countries like America and England. Now, one cannot claim that the members of Hindi speech community have frequent interaction and communication. It sounds ridiculous! We see that this component of speech community’s definition also does not stand when taken into practicality.

Anyway what we are concerned about is the concept of the ‘native language’. Now as we have seen what precisely the term ‘speech community’ means, we need to make a little correlation between these two terms. All the member of the speech community, irrespective of their place of location and their identity are identified with the language of that speech

community. Such identified language is often referred to as native language or the first language. The language is called native or first because the person who speaks and identified him/herself with this language has learnt to understand and see the world through this very language, before he/she decides to learn any other language. This concept also brings the concept of native land to the fore, which means the country or the nation with which one identifies him or herself. What is important to note here is that, one person can be a member of two or more speech communities as she/he is able to exhibit his/her command over more than two languages. But what is not possible is that a person cannot have more than one native language.

Variation Across Time

It is always possible that people living in different geographical locations belong to the same speech community, and as a matter of fact people belonging to different time can also be of same speech community. But what is to be noticed that though these people speak the same language, but are distributed across the time and space. Therefore, while considering about the members of English speech community we need to take a look at the two dimensional consideration of space and time. Those who were the member of English speech community in the fourteenth century spoke different variety of the same language than those who are the member of the same speech community in the twenty-first century. This variation is the result of the variation in time. As we know that language is not static, it changes over the period of time. The books, plays, and poetries written in that middle ages might not be comprehensible enough to the English reader of the twenty-first century. English spoken in England at the time of its evolution was different from that of the Middle English, and Middle English is in fact different from the English that exist today in England. But an interesting point can be noticed here, people speaking Old or Middle English in England also claimed themselves to be the native speaker of the language as much as the today's population of the England would do. This can also be considered as the historical or the diachronic perspective of looking at the language variation. While talking about diachronic perspective of the language variation it is customary to talk about the Old English period, Middle English period, and Modern English period.

The history of the language can be traced back to the arrival of three Germanic tribes to the British Isles during the 5th century AD. Angles, Saxons and Jutes crossed the North Sea from what is the present day Denmark and northern Germany. The inhabitants of Britain previously spoke a Celtic language. This was quickly displaced. Most of the Celtic speakers were pushed into Wales, Cornwall and Scotland. One group migrated to the Brittany Coast of France where their descendants still speak the Celtic language of Breton today. The Angles were named from Engle, their land of origin. Their language was called *Englisc* from which the word, English derives.

It wasn't till the 14th century that English became dominant in Britain again. In 1399, King Henry IV became the first king of England since the Norman conquest whose mother-tongue was English. By the end of the 14th century, the dialect of London had emerged as the standard dialect of what we now call Middle English. Chaucer wrote in this language.

Modern English began around the 16th century and, like all languages, is still changing.

An Anglo-Saxon inscription dated between 450 and 480 AD is the oldest sample of the English language. During the next few centuries four dialects of English developed:

- Northumbrian in Northumbria, north of the Humber
- Mercian in the Kingdom of Mercia
- West Saxon in the Kingdom of Wessex
- Kentish in Kent

During the 7th and 8th centuries, Northumbria's culture and language dominated Britain. The Viking invasions of the 9th century brought this domination to an end (along with the destruction of Mercia). Only Wessex remained as an independent kingdom. By the 10th century, the West Saxon dialect became the official language of Britain. Written Old English is mainly known from this period. It was written in an alphabet called Runic, derived from the Scandinavian languages. The Latin alphabet was brought over from Ireland by Christian missionaries. This has remained the writing system of English.

English went under a radical change in its middle period. The different varieties of English were used in this period not only in terms of spoken form, but also in written literature. The four major dialects that developed during this period were Northern, Southern,

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East Midland, and West Midland. The Southern dialect of Middle English was spoken in the area west of Sussex and south and southwest of the Thames. It was the direct descendant of the West Saxon dialect of Old English, which was the colloquial basis for the Anglo-Saxon court dialect of Old English. Descendants of Southern Middle English still survive in the working-class country dialects of the extreme southwest of England. By contrast with the southernmost dialects, Northern Middle English evolved rapidly: the inflectional systems of its nouns and verbs were already sharply reduced by 1300, and its syntax is also innovative (and thus more like that of Modern English). These developments were probably the result of Scandinavian influence. In the aftermath of the great Scandinavian invasions of the 860's and 870's, large numbers of Scandinavian families settled in northern and northeastern England. The East-Midland and West-Midland dialects of Middle English are intermediate between the Northern and Southern/Kentish extremes. In the West Midlands there is a gradation of dialect peculiarities from Northern to Southern as one moves from Lancashire to Cheshire and then down the Severn valley. This dialect has left modern descendants in the working class country dialects of the area. The East-Midland dialect is much more interesting. The northern parts of its dialect area were also an area of heavy Scandinavian settlement, so that northern East-Midland Middle English shows the same kinds of rapid development as its Northern neighbour. But the sub-dialect boundaries within East-Midland were far from static: the more northerly variety spread steadily southward, extending the influence of Scandinavianised English long after the Scandinavian population had been totally assimilated. In the 13th century this part of England, especially Norfolk and Suffolk began to outstrip the rest of the country in prosperity and population because of the excellence of its agriculture, and - crucially - increasing numbers of well-to-do speakers of East-Midland began to move to London, bringing their dialect with them. By the second half of the 14th century the dialect of London and the area immediately to the northeast, which had once been Kentish, was thoroughly East-Midland, and a rather Scandinavianised East Midland at that. Since the London dialect steadily gained in prestige from that time on and began to develop into a literary standard, the northern, Scandinavianised

variety of East-Midland became the basis of Standard Modern English. For that reason, East-Midland is by far the most important dialect of Middle English for the subsequent development of the language.

Towards the end of Middle English, a sudden and distinct change in pronunciation (the Great Vowel Shift) started, with vowels being pronounced shorter and shorter. From the 16th century the British had contact with many people from around the world. This, and the Renaissance of Classical Learning, meant that many new words and phrases entered the language. The invention of printing also meant that there was now a common language in print. Books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardisation to English. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the dialect of London, where most publishing houses were, became the standard. In 1604 the first English dictionary was published. The main difference between Early Modern English and Late Modern English is vocabulary. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from two principal factors: firstly, the Industrial Revolution and technology created a need for new words; secondly, the British Empire at its height covered one quarter of the earth's surface, and the English language adopted foreign words from many countries.

From around 1600, the English colonisation of North America resulted in the creation of a distinct American variety of English. Some English pronunciations and words 'froze' when they reached America. In some ways, American English is more like the English of Shakespeare than Modern British English is. Some expressions that the British call 'Americanisms' are in fact original British expressions that were preserved in the colonies while lost for a time in Britain (for example trash for rubbish, loan as a verb instead of lend, and fall for autumn; another example, frame-up, was re-imported into Britain through Hollywood gangster movies). Spanish also had an influence on American English (and subsequently British English), with words like canyon, ranch, stampede and vigilante being examples of Spanish words that entered English through the settlement of the American West. French words (through Louisiana) and West African words (through the slave trade) also influenced American English (and so, to an extent, British English).