

## Answers

### Question One : (8 pnts)

1/ Sociolinguistics is a field of study which is interested in describing language **as an asocial** phenomenon.

- **False** → Sociolinguistics is a field of study which is interested in describing language **as a social** phenomenon. **(1 pnt)**

2/ Sociolinguists believe that speakers know not only how to form sentences but also how to use them appropriately.

- **True (0.5)**

3/Hymes advocated **the asocial view** to the study of language and emphasized on the humans' ability to use language appropriately in different settings.

- **False** → Hymes advocated **the social view** to the study of language and emphasized on the humans' ability to use language appropriately in different settings. **(1 pnt)**

4/ For sociolinguistics, the process of acquiring a language **is also** a social process which only expands in social interaction.



- **True (0.5)** (means : in addition to the cognitive process **it is also** a social one)

5/ Asocial Linguistics is an approach to the study of language that **includes** the study of language variation.

- **False** → Asocial Linguistics is an approach to the study of language that **excludes** the study of language variation. **(1 pnt)**

6/ Mutual intelligibility **is a very efficient** criterion which is used to distinguish between language varieties.

- **False** → Mutual intelligibility is a criterion which is used to distinguish between language varieties **but it is not always efficient**. **(1 pnt)**

7/ Variation refers to the differences that may occur **outside** a language.

- **False** → Variation refers to the differences that may occur **within** a language. **(1 pnt)**

8/ The way a person speaks is influenced by **the participants and the setting only**.

- **False** → The way a person speaks is influenced by **the participants, the setting, the topic of discussion, and the function (the purpose of the topic or interaction) in addition to social dimensions (distance, status, formal, functional)**. **(1 pnt)**

9/ Patois is a French term used to refer to a dialect which **has** a literary tradition

- **False** → Patois is a French term used to refer to a dialect **which doesn't have** a literary tradition. **(1 pnt)**

-----  
**Note** : Statements in which the students answered by « false » are considered correct **Only when the correction of the statement is correct**. This means no « 0.5 » is granted for writing « false » only.

⇒ 0.5 is granted only to students who were close to the right answer.  
-----

## Question Two : (6 pnts)

The distinction between 'language' and 'dialect'

**Answer :**

'language' is a collection of mutually intelligible dialects and 'dialect' is a recognisable variety within this group. Yet, the mutual intelligibility criterion upon which we make such distinction is not entirely successful due to political factors. For instance, in some cases two or more mutually intelligible varieties of the same language are treated as separate languages like: Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish. In other cases, two or more mutually non-intelligible varieties are treated as dialects of the same language like: Cantonese and Mandarin in china. Thus, the distinction between them is generally based on political considerations.

## Question Three : (6 pnts) no more than 10 lines

There are four possible relationships between language and society :

### 1- Society (people) may influence or determine language (1.5 pnt)

⇒ *People may influence language and language use*

- This relation is manifested in the way people in different social groups use language differently
- **for exp:** *age-grading phenomenon*: Young children speak differently from older children and children speak differently from older people.
- Studies also show that people from different regions, ethnic origin, gender (male, female) use different types (varieties) of language.

### 2- Language may influence society and people (1.5 pnt)

⇒ This possibility expresses the idea that language is so powerful that it actually affects how people see the world, and how they think and behave.

- This possibility is taken from the Sapir-Whorf theory, also called the "Whorfian hypothesis"
- It claims that language actually affects the way people see the world
- This hypothesis was based originally on studies of the Hopi Indians.
- Whorf said that Hopi (Vs European) had different ways of talking about the world, so it influenced the way they saw the world.

### 3- Society and language influence each other (1.5 pnt)

⇒ The influence is bi-directional: language and society may influence each other.

- It is an intertwined relationship.
- The majority of sociolinguists adopt this possibility to look at their relationship.
- Speech and social behaviour are constantly interacting. All the time language is changing because of social contexts and social contexts cause the language to be changed.

### 4- No relationship between language and society (1.5 pnt)

⇒ They neither interact with each other nor influence each other.

- This possibility presents language as something pure, and abstract
- Language is just a tool used by people and there is no social effect.