

SULIT



First Semester Examination
2019/2020 Academic Session

December 2019 / January 2020

HET428 – Discourse and Pragmatics

Duration : 2 hours

Please check that this examination paper consists of FOUR (4) pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

Answer any **THREE (3)** questions.

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1. The cohesiveness of a text is a result of both grammatical cohesion and lexical cohesion (Cutting, 2002). Using appropriate examples, explain both types of cohesion that function to hold texts together.

[100 marks]

2. The following is a transcript of a father (F), mother (M) and two younger sisters, labelled as older sister (OS) and younger sister (YS), having a conversation at the breakfast table in their home sometime around Christmas. Analyse the situational context and the background knowledge context that are present in their conversation.

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|----|--|
| 1 | YS: It's not fair. Sarah got a new bike when she was fourteen. |
| 2 | F: Do you keep a running tally of everything we buy for Sarah? |
| 3 | YS: Well, yeah |
| 4 | M: Alexis, we can't afford that—oh, a Christmas card from <i>Geordy</i> ? |
| 5 | F: So? |
| 6 | M: Well I finally took them of the list! We haven't laid eyes on them since we had Alexis. |
| 7 | F: Jill, it's a card not a dead fish. |
| 8 | M: I know, but if I send them a card now, it's going to look like we're only sending them because they sent <i>us</i> one. |
| 9 | YS: Sarah got new boots? |
| 10 | M: Stop keeping score. |
| 11 | F: Those are nice, they must be warm
(older sister enters kitchen, sits down to eat) |
| 12 | YS: It's alive, It's alive! |
| 13 | OS: How come we never go to church for Christmas anymore? |
| 14 | YS: (inaudible) |
| 15 | F: Well, you know, in the last few years—you girls, um—haven't, ah—shown much enthusiasm. |
| 16 | OS: So do you guys believe? |
| 17 | M: In God? |

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|----|--|
| 18 | OS: (nods) |
| 19 | F: Your mother was raised Catholic, and I—um—wasn't so we... |
| 20 | M: You know, you don't have to attend church—not going doesn't mean that um... |
| 21 | F: Exactly, I mean you don't have to go to believe in God |
| 22 | YS: Do we really have to talk about religion? It's Christmas. |

(Source: Boston, 2002, p. 10-11)

[100 marks]

3. According to Cutting (2002), the use of direct or indirect speech acts is influenced by social and cultural factors. Discuss the influence of each of these factors on the way that speech acts are performed. Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.

[100 marks]

4. Answer [a] and [b].

[a] Explain the terms below:

[i] The Cooperative Principle (CP)

[ii] Maxims of Conversation

[40 marks]

- [b] According to Grice (1975), an implicature is generated whenever a maxim is flouted. In each of the following extracts, analyse the maxim flout and the implicature that is generated:

[i] Librarian: (raises his eyes, looks at the student with no facial expression)
Student: Hi. Could you check for me whether I have any books to collect?
Librarian: (swipes the student's card, clears his throat, wipes his nose with a tissue, glances at the computer screen, turns to the shelf to get a book, then another book)
Student: Anymore?

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Librarian: (turns and gets a third book, stamps them all with the return date)

Student: Is that all?

Librarian: Are you going to borrow all the books in the library?

Student: OK . . . I see . . . thank you very much

(Paltridge, 2012, p. 46)

- [ii] Chinese student: What do you do in America?
American student: I work in a bank.
Chinese student: It's a good job isn't it?
American student: Well, just so so.
Chinese student: Then, how much is your salary every month?
American student: Oh no
Chinese student: What's wrong?
American student: Why are you asking that?
Chinese student: Just asking, nothing else . . .
American student: The station isn't far is it?

(Paltridge, 2012, p. 46)

[60 marks]

5. According to Cutting (2002), the use of indirectness allows a speaker to be polite by giving a hearer options and retreating behind the literal meaning of the words. Explain this relationship between indirectness and politeness. Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.

[100 marks]