IELTS READING LESSON 9/04/2019

Section One Vocabulary

Match the correct word in column A with the definition in column B, then use in a sample sentence.

Column A	Column B
VOCABULARY	**DEFINITION**
1. **Intend** (Verb)	**A.** to be included in a group of numbers, ages, measurements etc with particular fixed limits
2. **Convey** (Verb)	**B.** the quality of being intense or extreme
3. **Intuition** (Noun)	**C.** Transport or carry to a place. / communicate (a message or information).
4. **Range** (verb)	**D.** Not consistent or having a fixed pattern; liable to change. Syn: changeable, inconstant.
5. **Variable** (adj)	**E.** design or destine something for a particular purpose. Syn: plan mean, aspire
6. **Depth** (noun)	**F.** a thing that one knows or considers likely from instinctive feeling rather than conscious reasoning.

Section Two Reading

ARTICLE A Role Of Language In Semantics And Society English Language
Source

Language plays a very important role in human lives. It is a social phenomenon. One of the main goals of language is to communicate with people and to understand them. When someone speaks, he intends a specific purpose. He wants to convey a message through that language. A person uses his language to many different purposes, for example, to express his feelings, to ask for help and to apologize.

1. In fact, we use language in many different ways, some of these are, the informational, the expressive, the directive, the phatic, the aesthetic. We use language and that language is a part of society. Actually, any language varies according to the nature of the society, what kind of people, and their attitudes. People use language according to their situation. The social background of any person can play an important role in the kind of language he has.

   I am going to discuss these functions and take some examples of each one. I will explain the relationship between language and social organization.

   Meaning:
2. Since we are discussing semantics and society. It is important to give a quick look on meaning. In fact, creating a theory of meaning is still the goal of many scientists. In order to have a theory of meaning, we have to rely on scientific grounds. There are two arguments that tried to explain meaning by scientific means.

3. The contextualism approach to meaning led by the British linguist Firth. The contextualists said that in order to study meaning scientifically, we have to focus on the context and situation. If a word is studied in relation to context, this eliminates other interpretations of the meaning of the word. Contextualists and behaviorists agree on many points. Bloomfield explained his opinion on contextualism by the famous example of Jack and Jill. Jack reacted to the response of Jill when he saw her face. Then, he climbed the tree and got the apple. So, the main focus for the contextualists was that should not be studied in isolation. Words should observable situation.

4. The mentalists approach to meaning led by Chomsky was the opposite view to the contextualists approach. The mentalist's main focus was on the mind. They focus on concepts which are abstract, in contrast to the contextualists who refused to believe in such abstract entities. The mentalists approach was to find ways to control intuition. To bake intuition objective was their goal.

Language and the society:

5. There is a strong relationship between language and society. I mean, that the language of any society is influenced by the society. For example, In Riyadh, when they mention the word family, it means the wife. So, it is clear that we mean the social context into which the language being communicated between individuals. Language has many connotations reflecting language, the norms of society, which is spoken by the traditions and culture. In fact, any community affects in linguistic phenomena at different levels. phonetics, Semantics, morphology and structure all are affected by the community.

6. It is impossible to imagine a society without a language. Also, it is impossible to imagine the existence of language outside the community. We cannot deny the fact that the language is of a very important function, can be summarized in two things: The first one is an individual: to help the individual of achieving his needs his in society. The second is a social sincere: is to create a situation appropriate for the composition of society and social life. It was here that the individual depends on the language to fulfill his needs. Any language has a strong effect in the life of the individual. It represents the means of communication with others. And through that connection with others, he or she achieve his things and get their wishes. It is also the best means of expressing his hopes and the pain and emotions.

7. Language is a very important factor of communication among society. Using language has some functions. We need to use language to fulfill our needs. It is a crucial part in our life. If a person uses his language, he chooses words that matches his needs. People use some functions to say a sentence, to ask, to reply, to greet and etc. In fact, forms are an important part of our discussion because they are related to functions. A person who says, what is your name? he is showing a form of a question. Let us take another example, I want to play football, functions as a statement.

Five functions of language:

8. Actually, Geoffrey Leech (1974). Mentioned that language has five functions. They are: Informational 2- Expressive 3- Directive 4- phatic 5- Aesthetic…. "Informational function which everyone tends to assume is most important" Geoffrey Leech (1974). In fact, this function concentrates on the message. It is used to give new information. It depends on truth and value. Let us look at this example, the car is big, the bus is crowded.

9. " language can have an expressive function: that is, it can be used to express its originator's feelings and attitudes – swear words and exclamations are the most obvious instance of this". Geoffrey Leech (1974). The speaker or writer of this function tries to express his feelings. He or she reflects his or her impression. This function could give a clear image for the personality of the speaker or writer. The best example of this kind is Poetry and literature. In fact, this function evokes certain feelings and express feelings. Examples of this kind are, I am very happy or I spent a wonderful vacation. We can see from the previous examples that they reflect the feelings of the speaker or the writer.

10. "The third function of language is the directive function whereby we aim to influence the behavior or attitudes of others. The most straightforward instances of the directive function are commands and requests. This function of social control places emphasis on the receiver's end, rather than the originator's end of the message: but it resembles the expressive function in giving less importance, on the whole, to conceptual meaning than to other types of meaning, particularly effective and connotative meaning" Geoffrey Leech (1974).

11. Examples of this kind are, I want a cup of tea or close the door. It is common to hear that, we use the language in a direct way. We ask someone to do something. Sometimes we can use a sentence to express two functions. For example, I am thirsty. The previous example could be used to show the condition of the speaker or writer or to express the feeling. In a way that a person asks someone to give him water.

12. The fourth function is the aesthetic function, which is" the use of language for the sake of the linguistic artifact itself, and for no purpose. This aesthetic function can have at least as much to do with conceptual as with affective meaning" Geoffrey Leech (1974)." The function associated with the message-the vehicle-is the poetic or aesthetic function: the sign taken as an end in itself. All art understood as art is taken to embody this function, and any object valued for its beauty rather than for its ideological value or usefulness-whether a gorgeous car, an elegant teapot, or some acreage of untouched real estate-takes on this function". Jakobson, R. (1933).

13. According to Leech, the fifth function is the phatic function. " the function of keeping communication lines open, and keeping social relationships in good repair (in Britain culture, talking about the weather is a well-known example of this)". Geoffrey Leech (1974). We can say about this function that it is used for normal talks. An example of this, when two people meet each other

accidently in a place. They start talking about something unimportant for the sake of communication like, how are you? How is your children? And so on. We can say that it is a kind of daily talking. It is not meaning but is good.

14. " The phatic function is taken from Broislowski, and stresses the maintenance of the relationship between the speaker and the hearer". Roman Jackson, (1960). In the phatic function, the massage is not important." The multilingual function refers to the ability to talk about talk, to refer to the code rather than just use it". Roman Jackson, (1960).

Functional approach to language teaching:

15. Functional approach to language teaching concentrates on meaning function. "Functional approach has the following three characteristic features:

- It is based on systemic theory: Systemic theory is a theory of meaning as choice. It means starting with the most general features and proceeding step by step so as to become even more specific
- It is functional in three distinct: First, it is concerned with the way language is organized to fulfill communicative functions. Second, it aims to account for three basic kinds of meaning, the ideational, the interpersonal and the textual. Third, each element in a language is explained by reference to its function in the total linguistic system.
- It is discourse approach. It aims to provide two levels of discourse analysis: the first is the understanding of the text. The second is the evaluation of the text." Halliday, (1985). Functional approach may be found in the following forms. It could be found in, introducing other people, apologizing, asking and giving information.

16. Functional approach to language teaching is used in educational environments. It helps to present specific purposes for a speaker to achieve his goals. An example, is a context of a classroom in a school requires a special function.

The effect of place and time on language:

17. In fact, the regional areas or places may have a clear effect on the language. For example, the language of the desert in Saudi Arabia is different from the language of the population of another region. The language of the population of the desert is loud and using rough words. Because the nature of the place. They live in an open area so they need to raise their voices. Time as well place has its own effect on the language. Language from generation to generation leaves its impact on the sounds of the language and vocabulary, systems and their structures.

Other language functions:

18. There are other functions for language. Ceremonial function, this function is used much in religious purposes. It is used to advise people or to ask them not to do some things. An example of this is, when the preacher stands up on Friday and speak to people. He uses particular words that helps to convey his message. There are also, "educational function of language and the technical and scientific function of language for communication". H.H. Stern (1983). Actually, using language for educational purposes are very common. It is used in the field of teaching and learning. There are some special terms that make this function clear.

Euphemism:

19. Let us explain what do we mean by this term. Euphemism refers to the indirect meaning. It deals with changing the expression to a pleasant one. Some euphemisms are used to cause some amusement. Others are used to make confusion. So, they are a group of words that are used instead of other words to relax the listener. When a person uses euphemism, he drops the direct meaning. When I say something and I mean something different. He does without the literal meaning. Many people use euphemisms to show the good part of the intended issue. They use it to hide not good ideas. An example of this is to use (passed away) instead of saying (died). It works here as a kind of politeness. It is much better than saying (died). In fact, euphemisms are words that are used to soften the way of our communication. Euphemism is used in all languages. It is a universal feature.

20. Sometimes, it is difficult to tell the truth. It is better to use euphemism because it conveys the idea in a polite way. It sometimes a means of amusement. Euphemism is also a way of not giving clear ideas. It misleads the listener. I can say the euphemism is a kind of words that keep the feelings of the listener.

21. "It's not necessarily bad to use euphemisms, not in the way of being immoral or committing a crime. But they are ways to help people avoid their real feelings about something. Some euphemisms are definitely culturally reinforced. When someone needs to

urinate or defecate, he says, "I am going to the restroom." But it's not a place to go to rest. It's a place to go and eliminate waste products from our bodies." (Jonathan Brower). Sometimes, euphemism is difficult to understand especially for non-native English speakers. Let us look at the following examples,

22. When someone says, (Sami is between jobs) for me a nonnative speaker might be somehow difficult to know the meaning. He might think that Sami has more than job. Actually, this is my opinion. It is not easy to know that this sentence means (unemployed person).

23. Let us have another example, (tired and emotional): "I heard on the news that Ronaldo was tired and emotional during the interview." For me to hear this for the first time, I thought Ronaldo was sick for the first word and fall in love for emotional. I interpreted this according to my culture and experience. Also, A person might be tired because he loves. But the fact that the meaning is completely different from what I have thought. The previous sentence means that, Ronaldo is drunk.

Jargon:

24. It is a kind of shorthand. It is kind of using some terms which are not clear for most people. Users of jargon may use some common words in a different way to make the meaning unclear. Sometimes, jargon is a way of conveying the ideas quickly. On the other hand, jargon could cause some problems when there are misunderstandings. In other words, when the listener misunderstands the speaker.

In general, I can say jargon is useful and useless. Robert Sylvester says, "jargon is a simple technical term that a group uses among themselves to quickly communicate a complex concept. Thus, jargon is useful to those who understand the complexity behind the term, but it's generally confusing to those without that background knowledge. At its worst, unnecessarily vague jargon confuses everyone, and pretentious jargon disparagingly suggests to common folks that a simple concept that they clearly understand is really much more complex than they think. College texts and computer manuals are notorious for the amount of jargon they contain." Here are some examples related to computer abbreviations:

- BRB: Be right back
- Gr8: Great
- FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions
- Lol: Laugh out Loud

Conclusion

25. We can say that, there are different functions for language. They are similar. The most important of these functions are, communicating with others and conveying information. Language is a means of communication and understanding each other. Consequently, the more vocabulary you have, the more your relationships with others. Language reflects the culture of the society. Language supplies people with experiences. Language is the mirror that reflects the personality of the individual. It shows the various features and characteristics and the strengths and weaknesses that affect others. It is a real means for a person to express his ideas and thoughts.

26. In fact, forms are very important in forming the functions of language. A question has its special form as in, where are you from? A statement has its own special form as in, He eats apples. Sometimes, forms do not reflect their functions. For example, I cannot find my keys, spoke for a person who is late for work. It is clear that it is a request. It means, "could you help me find my keys?".

27. Age, sex and social situation play a strong role in forming language. Languages may change for many reasons like, geographical region and social levels.