**TU/ CODL**

**TEZPUR UNIVERSITY**

**SEMESTER END EXAMINATION (SPRING) 2020**

**MEG 104: ASPECTS OF LANGUAGE**

Time: **3 Hours** Total Marks: **70**

*The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks for the individual question.*

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

1. Say whether the following statements are true or false:1x8= 8

1. English has three times but two tenses.
2. Diphthongs are voiced sounds.
3. The lower teeth are an active articulator.
4. The words *bank* (financial institution) and *bank* (side of a river) are polysemous.
5. A derivational morpheme does not change the grammatical category of the base word.
6. The words *pet* and *dog* are synonyms.
7. The English bound morpheme *–ing* (as in *talking*) is a derivational morpheme.
8. Polysemy is the case where a word has several related meanings.

2. The following two sentences do not *exactly* mean the same thing.

Explain the difference in meaning just in one or two sentences. 2

1. *My son, who studies in Shillong, is coming home today.*
2. *My son who studies in Shillong is coming home today.*

3. Give the grammatical category of each of the elements in the following

NP: 2

1. *Those three big cats.*

4*.* Show (in about 150-175 words) that the English spelling system is

clumsy because there is no one-to-one correspondence between

sounds and letters in the language. 8

**P.T.O.**

5. What is the form of the verb used in **past** (e.g. *I read this book last*

*year*) and the **present perfect** (e.g. *I’ve read this book before*). How do

*past* and *present perfect* differ in meaning, although both talk about a

past action? Give a precise answer in 150-175 words. 8

6. What are the principal design features of human language? Write your

answer in about 350 words. 14

7. Write a note on the word formation processes with reference to

English in about 400 words. 14

8. Explain Chomsky’s theory of *Universal Grammar* (in about 350

words). 14

\*\*\*