

MA ENGLISH
FOURTH SEMESTER
CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY
MEN-403

(Use separate answer scripts for Objective & Descriptive)

Duration : 3 hrs.

Full Marks : 70

(PART-A : Objective)

Time : 20 min.

Marks : 20

Choose the correct answer from the following:

1x20=20

1. Saussure's theory defined 'Sign' as made up of:
 - a. Idea and meaning
 - b. Image and symbol
 - c. Signifier and Signified
 - d. Significant and signofire
2. In human language sound of a word and its meaning is:
 - a. Arbitrary
 - b. Arbitrable
 - c. Ambient
 - d. Ardent
3. A sign only makes sense in its association to the other signs in the system means:
 - a. Sign is functional
 - b. Sign is relational
 - c. Sign is arbitrary
 - d. Sign is variable
4. Derrida stated that Western philosophy is always:
 - a. Homoocentric
 - b. Logocentric
 - c. Phallogocentric
 - d. Anthrocentric
5. Associations like man/woman, presence/absence constitute:
 - a. Arbitrary variables
 - b. Relational functions
 - c. Datacentric philosophy
 - d. Binary oppositions
6. A major text containing ideas on deconstruction is:
 - a. *Course in General Linguistics.*
 - b. *Art as Technique.*
 - c. *Functions of Language.*
 - d. *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human sciences.*
7. One prominent Russian formalist was:
 - a. I.A. Richards
 - b. Viktor Shklovsky
 - c. John Crowe Ransom
 - d. Leo Tolstoy
8. Identify the New Critic from the following:
 - a. Mikhail Bakhtin
 - b. Cleanth Brooks
 - c. Claude Levi Strauss
 - d. Michel Foucault
9. We speak to say something and when we listen we expect something to be said. This meaning according to Richards is:
 - a. Feeling
 - b. Tone
 - c. Sense
 - d. Intention

10. Language is matter of fact and requires undistorted references and absence of fiction.

This use of language according to Richards is:

- a. Journalistic
- b. Emotive
- c. Logical
- d. Scientific

11. The process of making strange or rendering something unfamiliar is termed:

- a. Automatization
- b. Habitualiation
- c. Defamiliarization
- d. Algebrization

12. Ecocriticism is a perspective that relates to Nature the general principles of:

- a. Dialectics
- b. Poetics
- c. Sociology
- d. Earth Science

13. Dreams according to Freud result out of the process of:

- a. Selection and combination
- b. Condensation and displacement
- c. Polyphony and heteroglossia
- d. Metaphor and metonymy

14. Lacan refers to the following as one name in the signifying slope and it is:

- a. signified
- b. metonymy
- c. signifying chain
- d. signifier

15. Which of the following wrote the seminal text *Metahistory*?

- a. Karl Marx
- b. F. Engels
- c. Sigmund Freud
- d. Hayden White

16. Which of the following does not fall under the category of Superstructure?

- a. Literature
- b. Arts
- c. Market
- d. Media

17.in a text/cultural artifact is often used to hide real social conditions as in the case of 17th century English poetry or 18th century landscape paintings.

- a. Figure of speech
- b. Discourse
- c. Sculpture
- d. Aesthetics

18. Which one of the following refers to the existence of cultural elements of an earlier age in the present?

- a. Dominant Culture
- b. Residual Culture
- c. Emergent Culture
- d. None

19. The aim of which of the following form of criticism is to see how cultural forms of representations (such as a literary text) *reflect existing economic conditions* in any society?

- a. Feminism
- b. Ecocriticism
- c. Marxism
- d. New Historicism

20. Towards the end of the 1980s, Greenblatt and others used the term..... in place of New Historicism.

- a. Culture
- b. Poetics
- c. Cultural Poetics
- d. Discourse

(PART-B : Descriptive)

Time : 2 hrs. 40 min.

Marks : 50

[Answer question no.1 & any four (4) from the rest]

1. Jacques Derrida speaks of a historical event of shift or break from past ways of thought. Explain the significance in your own words. Write in detail on the basic tenets of Post-Structuralism as a critique of Structuralism. 10
2. How does Freud define Id, Ego and Superego? Discuss the role of unconscious in Psychoanalysis. 6+4=10
3. Explain what Viktor Shklovsky means by habitualization. What, according to him, is the prime purpose of art and how could that be achieved? 6+4=10
4. Discuss the concept of 'sign' as offered by Ferdinand de Saussure. State his views on language as arbitrary and relational. 5+5=10
5. Write short notes on *any two* of the following: 5+5=10
 - a. Close Reading.
 - b. Base and Superstructure.
 - c. Emergent Culture.
 - d. Improvisation.
6. Define New Historicism. Explain with examples how power and ideology circulates through different texts in the form of discourse. 3+7=10
7. As a Post-Structuralist, Lacan illustrates the problematic relationship between the signifier and the signified with a simple formula in "Insistence of the Letter in the Unconscious." What is it and how does he explain the relationship? 3+7=10
8. How does Rueckart coordinate ecology and aesthetics in "Literature and Ecology"? Answer with reference to the authors/texts the essayist cites in the essay. 4+6=10

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