DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BOMBAY

PH.D. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
July 1, 2013

LINGUISTICS

IMPORTANT: Please answer all questions in the answer booklet provided. Please observe word limits strictly. Your answers should be well-organized, include suitable examples and clearly illustrate your understanding of the theoretical issues under consideration.

PART I:

Write notes on any FOUR of the following. (Word limit, 400 words - two sides or less of your answer booklet). (4x10= 40 marks)

1) Discuss the hierarchical structure of word-internal constituents and what they tell us about operations in morphology.
2) Choose any one discipline that interfaces with Linguistics and demonstrate the relevance of linguistic theories to that field.
3) Grammatical knowledge is ‘tacit’ (or subconscious). Yes or no. Justify your answer with suitable examples from different levels of linguistic analysis.
4) Phonemes may be grouped into syllables. What features of grammar are seen at the level of the syllable?
5) What are some of the observed properties of first language acquisition? What do they tell us about language in humans?
6) Provide a Phonetics-based account of the phenomenon of ‘accent’ in second language learners.
7) How does cross-linguistic evidence enable the defining and constructing of Universal Grammar?
8) Is lexical semantics sufficient for the construal of plural/sentence meaning? If not, then what aspects of meaning lie outside lexical semantics and how can they be accounted for?
9) Discuss any one of (a) binding, (b) theta or (c) trace theories.
10) Discuss any one ‘language disorder’? How does it enable our understanding of the structure and nature of language?

PART II:

Describe in less than 1000 words (not more than 4 sides) your research/academic interests and how your educational and research/professional background has equipped you to pursue further research in the area of your choice and/or in linguistics in general. Do not repeat topics/ideas presented in the questions below. If you are interested in particular languages or in fieldwork or in specific problems, state which and why. [10 marks]