

**Sociolinguistics**  
**Questions prepared by:**  
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**Lecture 1**

1. **When we study language we discover more about different fields of knowledge. One of the following is not from these fields:**
  - a. Psycholinguistics
  - b. Artificial intelligence
  - c. Applied linguistics
  - d. Cultural differences
  
2. **.....is the study of how a listener recognize words and utterances, or how damage to our brains results in certain kind of language disorders.**
  - a. Artificial intelligence
  - b. Psycholinguistics:
  - c. Applied linguistics
  - d. sociolinguistics
  
3. **Being interested in language study, some people complain about jargon used in classroom. Jargon means:**
  - a. Harsh
  - b. Complicated
  - c. Unofficial
  - d. Official
  
4. **There are ..... characteristics of language:**
  - a. 4
  - b. 5
  - c. 6
  - d. 7
  
5. **The first characteristic of language is that it is a system. This means that Language is a systematic way of combining smaller units into larger units for the purpose of**
  - a. Lengthening
  - b. Creativity

- c. Being more expressive
- d. communication

**6. when we combine a phoneme + phoneme, we are combining .....units.**

- a. lexical
- b. syntactical
- c. both
- d. neither

**7. The sounds of our language. E.g. /k/, /t/, etc.**

- a. Lexicals
- b. Phonemes
- c. Syntax
- d. All false

**8. The words of our language. E.g. Help, homework, etc.**

- a. Lexicals
- b. Phonemes
- c. Syntax
- d. All false

**9. Grammatical rules which determine how words can be combined into phrases and sentences**

- a. Lexicals
- b. Phonemes
- c. Syntax
- d. All false

**10. The second characteristic of language is that it has the potential to create new meanings. This happens when:**

- a. We borrow new words from other languages.
- b. We add affixes to words.
- c. We create a new word.
- d. All false

**11. This characteristics is:**

- a. Found only in human language.
- b. Found only in animals language.
- c. Found in both human and animal language.
- d. All possible

12. The third characteristic of language is that it can have multiple functions. This can be used in different ways EXEPT:
- Language used referentially.
  - Language used affectively.
  - Language used aesthetically.
  - Language used temporarily.
  - Language used phatically.
13. When the purpose is to transmit accurate or non-ambiguous information, the language is being used:
- Phaically
  - Aesthetically
  - Referentially
  - affectively
14. When we give information or instruction, we are using language:
- Phaically
  - Aesthetically
  - Referentially
  - affectively
15. When the speaker/writer expresses his/her feelings or attitudes, he is using language:
- Phaically
  - Aesthetically
  - Referentially
  - affectively
16. Aesthetic language is usually used in:
- Science
  - Poetry
  - Cinema
  - Journalism
17. Language performing aesthetic function is designed to .....through actual or imagined sounds and through metaphor.
- Give instructions
  - Avoid the listener understanding
  - Transmit accurate information

- d. please the senses
18. **The *phatic function* is used to keep communication lines:**
- a. Close
  - b. Vague
  - c. Open
  - d. Accurate
19. **“Speech is silver silence is gold” is an example of language used:**
- a. Phatically
  - b. Aesthetically
  - c. Referentially
  - d. affectively
20. **“Wow, she is very beautiful” is an example when language is used:**
- a. Phatically
  - b. Aesthetically
  - c. Referentially
  - d. affectively
21. **“- How are you today?  
-It is very warm today.”  
The above example shows how language is used:**
- a. Phatically
  - b. Aesthetically
  - c. Referentially
  - d. affectively
22. **..... helps in maintaining cohesion within social groups.**
- a. Language used aesthetically
  - b. Language used referentially
  - c. Language used phatically
  - d. Language used affectively.
23. **Using language phatically has a big role in:**
- a. Social life

- b. Scientific field
- c. Poetry
- d. Literature

**24. The fourth characteristic of language is that it is diverse. An example of this is:**

- a. Formal and informal Arabic.
- b. American English and British English
- c. Both possible
- d. Both false

**25. .... is the study of how a listener recognize words and utterances.**

- a. Psychosis
- b. Psychotherapy
- c. Psychology
- d. Psycholinguistics

**26. Psycholinguistics is the study of.....**

- a. How to describe the sounds of a language.
- b. How to learn languages.
- c. How to teach languages
- d. how a listener recognizes words and utterances.

**27. .... refers grammatical rules which determine how words can be combined into phrases and sentences:**

- a. Morpheme
- b. philosophy
- c. **Syntax.**
- d. Morphology

**28. The .....is used to keep communication lines open and also keep social relationships well**

- a. aesthetic function
- b. phatic function
- c. *Referential function*
- d. *Affective function*

**29. There is more than one .....of English, eg. Indian English, American English**

- a. variety
- b. verb
- c. Language

d. Terminology

**30. Aesthetic language is usually used in .....not in science**

- a. Mathematics
- b. Physics
- c. Poetry
- d. Morphology

**31. Choose the example that expresses the affective use of language:**

- a. It is very hot to day.
- b. Wow, she is very beautiful
- c. *Go to the end of the road.*
- d. *Put those books on the table.*

## Lecture 2

**1. In a statistics published by the State of the World Forum (September 2000), it was found that the number of pages on the World Wide Web is 320,000,000. This means that:**

- a. The web without English language is nothing.
- b. The English language has the power to dominate the the Web.
- c. Both
- d. Neither

**2. In a statistics published by the State of the World Forum (September 2000), it was found that the percentage of all websites in English is 80.This means that:**

- a. Other languages should have more existence on the web.
- b. The speakers of English reached 80% of the world.
- c. If you do not speak a certain language you are excluded from some kind of power.
- d. All true

**3. Not knowing a language in presence of others who know it, means:**

- a. They have the power to make you feel ignorant or confused because they have knowledge that you do not have.
  - b. You don't have the same power.
  - c. Both
  - d. Neither
- 4. Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) was a .....linguist whose ideas laid a foundation for many significant developments in linguistics in the 20th century.**
- a. French
  - b. British
  - c. Spanish
  - d. Swiss
- 5. Saussure's theory is Language as a .....System.**
- a. Representational
  - b. Logical
  - c. Natural
  - d. All false
- 6. The FIRST principle of Saussure's theory is that he divided language into two parts. The first one is called Languag which is.....**
- a. Others' [innate] knowledge of the systematic correspondences between sound and meaning.
  - b. Our [innate] knowledge of the systematic correspondences between sound and meaning.
  - c. Both
  - d. Neither
- 7. Due to this theory, this part, our innate knowledge, is the part that makes up our language.....**
- a. Including the knowledge of what utterances are possible . . . and what utterances are not.
  - b. Excluding the knowledge of what utterances are possible . . . and what utterances are not.
  - c. Both possible

d. Neither

**8. Our innate knowledge is:**

- a. Born with us.
- b. Our ability to recognize the mistakes
- c. Our ability to judge grammatical sentences from ungrammatical ones.
- d. All true

**9. In the example:” see tomorrow I will” and “ I will see you tomorrow” , we can decide which one is right by using:**

- a. Power
- b. Grammar
- c. Our innate knowledge
- d. A and B

**10. Saussure divided language into two parts. The second one is called the Parole. Parole is the actual use of language in:**

- a. Speech
- b. Writing
- c. Reading
- d. Both A and B

**11. The SECOND principle of Saussure’s theory is the idea of signifier and signified. Based on this, the sound sequence which makes up a label is called:**

- a. Sign
- b. Signifier
- c. Signified
- d. All false

**12. Based on the idea of signifier and signified, the meaning or concept associated with the signified is called:**

- a. Sign



- b. Signifier
  - c. Signified
  - d. All false
13. **Based on the idea of signifier and signified, the correspondence between signifier and the signified is called:**
- a. Sign
  - b. Signifier
  - c. Signified
  - d. All false
14. **The THIRD principle of Saussure's theory is that The link between the signified and the signifier is arbitrary. This means:**
- a. They don't follow any rule.
  - b. We might have one signified which correspond to different signifiers.
  - c. Both
  - d. All false
15. **The FORTH principle of Saussure's theory is that Sign partially derive meaning from their relationship with other associated signs. An example of this the words:**
- a. Car , bus
  - b. Crowded, overcrowded
  - c. White tulip, red tulip
  - d. B and C
16. **Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) was a .....****linguist**
- a. Syrian
  - b. Swiss
  - c. British
  - d. American
17. **Saussure divided language into two parts: langue and .....**
- a. Paradox
  - b. Pardon

- c. Parole
  - d. Grammar
18. ....is the actual use of language in both speech and writing
- a. linguistics
  - b. language
  - c. Competence
  - d. Parole
19. **The link between the signifier and the signified is .....**
- a. Regular
  - b. Systematic
  - c. Arbitrary
  - d. Logical
20. ....is the ability of its holders to force compliance or obedience of other people to their will.
- a. Parole
  - b. Language
  - c. Power
  - d. signifier

### Lecture 3

1. **The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis says that there is a causative link between .....and language.**
- a. Human
  - b. Culture
  - c. Society
  - d. Religion
2. **The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis says that a community's cultural experience .....their *language*.**
- a. Is affected by
  - b. Shapes
  - c. Is shaped by
  - d. All false

- 3. The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis refers to two parts. The first one is Linguistic relativity, and the second is:**
- a. Linguistic theories
  - b. Linguistic competence
  - c. Linguistic determinism
  - d. All false
- 4. Linguistic relativity supposes that languages of different cultures involve distinct systems of representation which are .....equivalent.**
- a. Not necessarily
  - b. Necessarily
  - c. Both possible
  - d. Neither
- 5. Linguistic determinism supposes that language affects the thought processes of its speakers. This means:**
- a. The language you speak determines the way that you will interpret the world around you.
  - b. Our language determines how we see the world (we can't see things another way)
  - c. language and its structures limit and determine human knowledge or thought
  - d. All true
- 6. Which statement applies to Politics:**
- a. Politics is concerned with power
  - b. There is no keeping out of politics.
  - c. Politics can involve most aspects of life.
  - d. All true

**7. How Politics is involved in buying some brand of coffee rather than another?**

- a. When you choose specific brand you make a small contribution to the continued existence of a particular company.
- b. When you choose your brand that means you are making your own choice.
- c. You are affected by the policy of the company
- d. All false

**8. To achieve political beliefs, we can practice (Physical coercion). This type is associated with:**

- a. Democratic regimes
- b. Dictatorial regimes
- c. Both
- d. Neither

**To achieve political beliefs, we can practice (Legal laws). This type is associated with:**

- a. Democratic regimes
- b. Dictatorial regimes
- c. Both
- d. Neither

**9. To achieve political beliefs, we can practice (Persuasion and consent). To achieve this we need:**

- a. A written plan
- b. Approval
- c. Authority
- d. Ideology

**10. Ideology is defined as any set of beliefs which, to people who hold them, appear to be:**

- a. Important
- b. Logical
- c. Natural

d. B and C

11. **Questioning the ideology is not easy because:**

- a. It is difficult
- b. It is challenging
- c. It appears not to make sense and there is a price to be paid
- d. All true

12. **Political Discourse means:**

- a. Speech
- b. Objection
- c. Opposition
- d. All false

13. **In the political discourse, there are two main tools that can lead the hearer to make assumptions about the existence of information that is not made explicit in what is actually said. One of these two tools is Presupposition while the other one is called:**

- a. Implicature
- b. Reference
- c. Inferring
- d. Recognition

14. **To use presupposition in a sentence:**

- a. Use comparative adjectives.
- b. Use possessives
- c. Use questions instead of statements
- d. All true

15. ***“We will not talk about Sally’s problems anymore.”* To make a presupposition here, we used:**

- a. Comparative adjectives

- b. Questions
- c. Possessives
- d. All false

**16. The above sentence presupposes that:**

- a. We have talked before.
- b. Sally has problems.
- c. Both
- d. Neither

**17. “Is it not now time to study hard?” This question presupposes:**

- a. The listener did not study hard.
- b. The listener studied hard.
- c. Both the speaker and the listener need rest.
- d. All possible

### 4<sup>rd</sup> Lecture

**1. Due to Oxford English Dictionary, “rhetoric is the art of using language so as to .....others”**

- a. Persuade
- b. Influence
- c. Either
- d. Neither

**2. Another definition for Rhetoric is that it is a group of rules that speakers/writers adhere to so that they express themselves with....**

- a. Bravery
- b. Happiness
- c. Easiness

d. Eloquence

**3. One of the Rhetorical Devices used by Politicians is Metaphor which is defined as a way of comparing .....concepts.**

- a. Three similar
- b. Three different
- c. Two similar
- d. Two different

**4. In the example:" Sally is an angel.", the metaphor use is clear by .....**

- a. Using the word angel
- b. Mentioning the name (Sally)
- c. Not using the words (like, as)
- d. A and B

**5. Another one of the Rhetorical Devices used by Politicians is the simile. Simile asserts that something is.....**

- a. Similar something else
- b. The other thing it self
- c. Either
- d. Neither

**6. In the example:" Sally is like an angel.", the simile is clear through:**

- a. Using the word angel
- b. Mentioning the name (Sally)
- c. Using the words (like, as)
- d. A and B

7. While a metaphor asserts that something ..... something else, a simile asserts that something is similar to something else.
- a. Is
  - b. Isn't
  - c. Is never
  - d. All false

8. "That vast wealth producing engine of the West began to splutter"

Margaret Thatcher. 1983

In the above example in politics, we find:

- a. Simile
  - b. Metaphor
  - c. Both
  - d. Neither
9. Another one of the Rhetorical Devices used by Politicians is personification. It is a rhetoric device that entails giving .....characteristics to inanimate objects or abstract ideas.
- a. Animal
  - b. Inanimate
  - c. Human
  - d. A and B
10. In the example said by Us President Lyndon Johnson: "Once again the heart of America is heavy." , the use of personification here can give the speech.....
- a. A stronger effect
  - b. A dramatic effect
  - c. A poetic effect
  - d. All false



11. In the example said by British TV news 1990s “Germany is the bully in the playground”, the use of personification here has.....
- An ideological effect
  - A poetic effect
  - A dramatic effect
  - A sad effect
12. The above example indicates Germany’s.....
- Strong and influential position in the European Union
  - Dominance in Europe
  - Either
  - Neither
13. Another one of the Rhetorical Devices used by Politicians is Euphemism. It is defined as a rhetorical device which uses mild or inoffensive language to make something seem more .....than it actually appears.
- Positive
  - Negative
  - Real
  - Imaginary
14. Another one of the Rhetorical Devices used by Politicians is The rule of Three. It is defined as a rhetorical device where a statement is divided into ..... parts or points.
- Two
  - Three
  - Four
  - Five
15. Another one of the Rhetorical Devices used by Politicians is Parallelism. It is a rhetorical device which expresses several ideas in a series of .....structures.
- Similar
  - Different

- c. Poetical
- d. Contradictory

16. **Politicians use parallel structures when they want to ..... a particular part of their message:**

- a. Avoid drawing attention to
- b. Draw attention to
- c. Omit
- d. Add

17. **Another one of the Rhetorical Devices used by Politicians is Pronouns. It is a device which can be used....**

- a. To emphasize responsibility and agency
- b. To obscure responsibility and agency
- c. Either
- d. Neither

18. **..... is a level of language use which is concerned with the relation between how a story is told and how this can lead to different view or versions of the same story or event.**

- a. Journalism
- b. Media
- c. Linguistic representation
- d. A and B

19. ***Discourse* is used in linguistics with a range of meanings. It can refer to**

- a. Any piece of connected language which contains more than one sentence.
- b. Conversations
- c. A and B
- d. All false

20. The prevailing way that a culture talks about or represents something is called the..... discourse.
- Cultural
  - Neutral
  - Opposite
  - Dominant
21. Media can lead to different changes in the society. One of these changes is the use of non-sexist language. An example of this is:
- Fireman
  - Fiirefighter
  - The doctor should be responsible for his/her patient.
  - B and C
22. Most job titles that were gender-specific in the past .....equivalent gender-neutral synonym today.
- Have no
  - Have an
  - Doesn't have
  - All false
23. In the example:" The airport is already acknowledged as the economic motor of the region" by Graham Stringer, 1997, we can notice the use of.....
- Metaphor in Politics
  - Euphemism in Politics
  - Parallelism in Politics
  - Simile in Politics
24. In the example:" Germany is the conductor of the orchestra.", we can notice the use of.....
- Metaphor in Politics

- b. Euphemism in Politics
- c. Parallelism in Politics
- d. Personification in Politics

**25. Using (Ethnic cleansing) instead of (forcible removal of civilians) is called:**

- a. The Rule of Three in Politics
- b. Euphemism in Politics
- c. Parallelism in Politics
- d. Personification in Politics

**26. In the example: "The cry of the French Revolution (liberty, equality, brotherhood)", we can notice:**

- a. The Rule of Three in Politics
- b. Euphemism in Politics
- c. Parallelism in Politics
- d. Personification in Politics

**27. In the example: "we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets" which was said by Winston Churchill 1940, we can notice:**

- a. The Rule of Three in Politics
- b. Euphemism in Politics
- c. Parallelism in Politics
- d. Personification in Politics

**28. In media, saying the statement: "A friend of Mr. Carling is reported as saying ...." Reflects:**

- a. Reliable source
- b. Unreliable source
- c. Both
- d. Neither

## 5<sup>th</sup> Lecture

- 1) **Received Pronunciation is appreciated as:**
  - a) RP
  - b) RPA
  - c) Advanced RP
  - d) All false
  
- 2) **Advanced RP refers to the accent used by the educated and the wealthy. It gives .....of what part of the country the speaker came from.**
  - a) A clear indication
  - b) No indication
  - c) More indication
  - d) All false
  
- 3) **It meant by Received Pronunciation:**
  - a) Heard
  - b) Accepted
  - c) Understood
  - d) All false
  
- 4) **A pronunciation of British English based on the speech of the upper class of southeastern England**
  - a) Mainstream (RP)
  - b) BBC English
  - c) Both
  - d) Neither
  
- 5) **An accent which sounds less formal than advanced RP and is the one that most people in Britain generally hear when they listen to newsreaders on national television.**
  - a) Mainstream (RP)
  - b) BBC English
  - c) Both
  - d) Neither

**6) Register is the way that language can systematically vary according to the.....**

- a) Situation in which it is used.
- b) One who is speaking it.
- c) One who is listening to it.
- d) B and C

**7) Variation in Register can be in**

- a) Sentence structure,
- b) Pronunciation
- c) Vocabulary
- d) All true

**8) One of the three factors that determine variation in register is (Field). It refers to.....**

- a) The medium of communication, e.g. speech or writing.
- b) The subject matter of the discourse
- c) The role being played by the speaker
- d) All true

**9) One of the three factors that determine variation in register is (Tenor). It refers to.....**

- a) the medium of communication, e.g. speech or writing.
- b) The subject matter of the discourse
- c) The role being played by the speaker
- d) A and B

**10) One of the three factors that determine variation in register is (Mode). It refers to.....**

- a) The medium of communication, e.g. speech or writing.
- b) The subject matter of the discourse
- c) The role being played by the speaker
- d) All true

**11) What are the reasons for allowing the public to participate in the media. (TV shows)**

- a) This provides the opportunity for democratic debate in the media.
- b) This can depoliticize some important issues by presenting them for public debate.
- c) This opens up access to an important public domain for people whose voices and opinions are not usually heard on television.
- d) All true

**12) Computer mediated communication (CMC) include different forms of interactions ranging from email to newsgroup. In the early days of CMC it was thought that this new medium would result in more.....**

- a) Isolation
- b) Democratic communication
- c) Problems
- d) All false

**13) Netiquette refers to the rules that attempt to control social interaction in the.....**

- a) Virtual world (cyberspace).
- b) Real world
- c) Scientific world
- d) All false

**14) Inappropriate behavior in CMC can get you sanctioned, and possibly excluded from, a group. An example of this is flaming. Flaming is:**

- a) Aggressive verbal behavior
- b) Sending unwanted long messages
- c) Both
- d) Neither

**15) Diverse groups of people who participate in protests and campaigns via the internet, can be socially and politically.....**

- a) Humiliated
- b) Questioned
- c) Powerful
- d) A and B

**16) It refers to biological category, which is usually fixed before birth.**

- a) Gender
- b) Sex
- c) Type
- d) A and B

**17) It refers to social category, which is associated with certain behaviour.**

- a) Gender
- b) Sex
- c) Type
- d) A and B

**18) .....represents women and men unequally, as if members of one sex were somehow less completely human, or had fewer rights than members of the other sex.**

- a) Sexual language
- b) Sexist language
- c) Erotic language
- d) All false

**19) When we say that English language system is inherently sexist, we have to look for symmetry versus asymmetry in the vocabulary or lexis. If we take for example the word man, we will find it a generic name used for:**

- a) Male
- b) female



- c) Either
- d) Neither

**20. (woman Miss / Mrs / Ms)  
(man Mr)**

**The above words are an example of;**

- a) Symmetry versus
- b) Asymmetry in the vocabulary
- c) Both
- d) Neither

### **6<sup>th</sup> Lecture**

**1. The term (Marked) means noticeably.....**

- a. Usual
- b. Unusual
- c. Regular
- d. Reasonable

**2. Marked terms refer to anything which deviates from the norm and this deviation is signalled by.....**

- a. Additional information
- b. No additional information
- c. Itself
- d. All false

**3. If we take for example the word (male nurse, nurse), the marked term is.....**

- a. Male
- b. Nurse
- c. Female
- d. All false

**4. It is common for 'unmarked' terms to refer to:**

- a. Males
- b. Females
- c. Both
- d. Neither

**5. (waitress, hostess, actress) are.....terms.**

- a. Marked
- b. Unmarked
- c. Both possible

d. All false

**6. These examples can be interpreted as .....because they imply that 'normal' or the high status people are men.**

a. Racist

b. Sexist

c. Aggressive

d. Immoral

**7. *Semantic* is a linguistic term referring to meaning. Derogation means 'to cause to seem.....**

a. Inferior

b. Equal

c. Unequal

d. Aggressive

**8. An example of semantic derogation is.....**

a. Master vs. Mistress

b. Waiter vs. Waitress

c. Lion vs. Lioness

d. Actor vs. Actress

**9. Sexism is sometimes located.....**

a. In specific words. i.e. in ( mistress, actress)

b. In the discourse, i.e. in a whole utterance or sentence

c. In both

d. Neither

**10. At the level of phonology, women and men .....in their pronunciation.**

a. Are similar

b. Vary

c. Never vary

d. All false

**11. At the syntactic level, .....differences in the kinds of grammatical constructions they use.**

a. There are

b. There are no

c. Both

d. Neither

**12. Discoursal differences mean differences in the kinds of things they....**

- a. Like
- b. Dislike
- c. Ignore
- d. Talk about

**13. A research found that in a mixed-sex conversation, the average amount of time for which a man talks is approximately .....as long as the average amount for which a woman talks.**

- a. Once and half
- b. Twice
- c. Twice and half
- d. Three times

**14. The research found that boys talk .....in front of the class than girls do, and absorb more of the teacher's time.**

- a. More
- b. Less
- c. The same as girls do
- d. All false

**15. As a consequence of this research, changes to teaching styles in .....have been made to distribute the amount of classroom talk, and the teacher's time, more fairly.**

- a. The USA
- b. The Netherlands
- c. France
- d. The UK

**16. The extent to which men interrupt women ....Men interrupt women more than they interrupt other men, indicate that men act as if they have more.....**

- a. Power
- b. Logic
- c. Right
- d. All false

**17. Back channel support is the .....feedback listeners give to speakers.**

- a. Verbal
- b. Non-verbal
- c. Both
- d. Neither

**18. Research suggests women are often .....than men in supportive roles in conversation.**

- a. More active
- b. Less active
- c. More inactive
- d. All false

**19. Hedges are linguistic forms which 'dilute' an assertion. An example of this type is.....**

- a. Sort of
- b. I think
- c. Kind of
- d. All true

**20. Modal auxiliary verbs can be used to indicate that you don't want to sound completely.....**

- a. Rude
- b. Polite
- c. Certain
- d. Insulting

**21. Studies suggest that women exploit hedges and epistemic modal forms .....**

- a. Just like men do
- b. More than men
- c. Less than men
- d. All false

- 22. Women use hedges and epistemic forms because.....**
- a. Women are less confident than men and feel nervous about asserting anything too strongly.  
Women prefer to avoid conflict and to allow disagreement to take place without explicit confrontation
  - b. Both
  - c. Neither
- 23. Men and women vary in the topics they choose to discuss. Women select more.....**
- a. Personal topics: E.g. family, emotions and friendships.
  - b. Impersonal topics, often based on factual or technical knowledge.
  - c. Both
  - d. Neither