Final State Exam (B.A.) – Linguistics

SAMPLE

One problem which recurs in *any discussion* of word-formation is the matter of productivity. *Although the term productive is used in various ways in morphology, we can fundamentally say that a process is productive while it is used in the coinage of new forms. Purely syntactic processes are usually assumed to be totally productive: they are assumed not to have lexical exceptions, not to be restricted by factors related to etymology, the word-classes involved, or demands for euphony. *Any of these* may have an effect in word-formation.* On the other hand, the lexicon of English contains many words whose precise form or meaning could not be predicted on the basis of the current state of the language.

[…] In some cases, an existing word has acquired particular connotations or meanings which make it non-compositional or idiomatic. For example, a 'frogman' is not a person who happens to have bulging eyes or a long tongue, nor yet a man who collects, eats or sells frogs. The meaning of 'frogman' is fixed. Such patterns or examples are said to be lexicalized.

1. Read aloud the part between the asterisks (*).

2. Analyse the underlined sentence in terms of

- the number of finite clauses;
- hypotactic and paratactic relations between clauses (main and dependent clauses);
- syntactic functions and types of dependent clauses.

3. Compare the syntactic function of the pronoun *any* in the phrases *any discussion* and *Any of these*. In the text, find examples of other pronouns which can perform these two syntactic functions; identify the class of the pronouns and their syntactic function in the text.

4. Using examples from the text, give an account of the word-formation processes of compounding and derivation.