

APPROVED
at the meeting of the Academic
Council of NJSC Al-Farabi Kazakh
National University
Protocol №14 dated 16.06.2026

Examination Program

for Applicants to the Doctoral Program in the Educational Program Group 8D057 – Linguistics

I. General Provisions

1. This program has been developed in accordance with Order No. 600 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 31, 2018, “On Approval of the Standard Rules for Admission to Educational Organizations Implementing Educational Programs of Higher and Postgraduate Education” (hereinafter referred to as the Standard Rules).

2. The doctoral admission examination for the educational program group 8D023 – Linguistics consists of three components: an interview, essay writing, and an examination in the profile discipline of the educational program group. The assessment structure is as follows:

Component	Score
1. Interview	30
2. Essay	20
3. Examination in the profile discipline of the educational program group	50
Total / Passing Score	100 / 75

3. The total duration of the written part of the examination process is 3 hours and 10 minutes, during which the applicant shall:

A) write an essay (in Kazakh, not less than 250 words);

B) answer the questions of the electronic examination ticket in the specialty area (covering three sections).

4. The interview is conducted individually before the beginning of the written part of the examination.

II. Procedure for Conducting the Admission Examination

1. Interview

Purpose: To assess the applicant’s motivation for doctoral studies, the level of awareness of their research interests, as well as their communicative and academic skills.

Format: The interview is conducted in Kazakh and attended by members of the examination committee. Questions may cover the following topics:

- the applicant’s research interests and goals;

- previous academic and professional experience;
- the topic of the planned dissertation research;
- current issues in linguistics, intercultural communication, and academic writing.

Assessment Criteria:

- the level of theoretical and methodological preparedness for conducting research in the field of linguistics;
- research potential and the justification of the proposed dissertation topic;
- analytical and critical thinking skills;
- readiness for academic communication and participation in the international scientific community.

2. Essay

Purpose: To assess the applicant's analytical and creative abilities. These abilities are demonstrated through the ability to present and justify one's position based on:

- theoretical knowledge;
- research interests;
- social and personal experience.

Types of Essays:

Motivational Essay – reveals the reasons for the applicant's interest in research activities and motivation for pursuing doctoral studies.

Scientific-Analytical Essay – demonstrates the applicant's understanding of the relevance and methodological foundations of the proposed research.

Problem-Oriented Essay – reflects the applicant's reasoning on current scientific issues within the subject field.

The essay topics have been designed with consideration of the interdisciplinary nature of the program content, as well as current issues in linguistics and its contemporary challenges, modern research trends, research methodology and methods, intercultural communication, and computational linguistics.

3. Examination in the Profile Discipline of the Educational Program

Structure of the Examination Tasks

The examination consists of three sections covering the core disciplines of the curriculum:

- History of Linguistic Thought;
- Linguistic Schools and Approaches;
- Philosophy of Language, theories and scientific concepts of prominent linguists;
- Scientific information on the languages of the world and artificial languages;
- Language and Machine, Language and Computer.

The examination ticket consists of **three questions** (one question from each section).

Section 1. Questions on the History of Linguistics assess the applicant's general knowledge in the specialized field, professional preparation, and critical thinking skills based on questions concerning the foundations, history, and stages of development of linguistic theories, linguistic schools and trends in the history of linguistics, their place in the philosophy of language, and their contribution to linguistic science.

Section 2. Questions on Language Theory are aimed at assessing the applicant's knowledge of general theoretical concepts concerning the nature, structure, and system of language, language levels, social and communicative functions of language, laws of language development, language relations and their consequences, the relationship between language, human consciousness, thought, and society, as well as branches of linguistics and their fundamental terminological and conceptual apparatus.

Section 3. Questions on Applied Linguistics and Research Methods in Linguistics are intended to assess the applicant's competence in fields related to the practical application of linguistic theories to solving social issues, the ability to evaluate the significance of various branches of applied linguistics, and the skills required to apply scientific methods and research techniques for investigating, describing, and explaining linguistic phenomena.

Topics for Preparation for the Examination in the Profile Discipline of the Educational Program Group

Course: *Scientific Paradigms of General Linguistics*

Ancient Linguistics

Ancient linguistics. The problem of periodization in the history of linguistics. The debate on the "correctness of names," analogy and anomaly, identification of the basic units of language (sound, syllable, word, sentence), and major grammatical categories. Achievements of Ancient Greek-Roman, Chinese, Indian, Arab, and Turkic linguistics. Mahmud al-Kashgari and his contribution to linguistics.

Linguistics of the 16th–18th Centuries

The influence of Latin grammar on the grammars of European languages. The first attempts to prove language kinship. Port-Royal Grammar as the first model for creating general linguistic theories and regional grammars. Language issues in the works of philosophers: Francis Bacon, René Descartes, Gottfried Leibniz, and others. Theories of the origin of language: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Johann Herder, and Mikhail Lomonosov.

Comparative-Historical Linguistics

Problems of language relatedness. The role of Sanskrit in comparative-historical linguistics: William Jones and Friedrich Schlegel. Comparative-historical linguistics in the first quarter of the nineteenth century: Rasmus Rask, Franz Bopp, Jacob Grimm, Friedrich Diez, and Alexander Vostokov. Comparative-historical grammars of the Indo-European languages. The Family Tree Theory and Johannes Schmidt's Wave Theory.

The Neogrammarian period in comparative-historical linguistics: new methods, the pursuit of methodological precision, and the development of experimental research. Karl Brugmann and Berthold Delbrück: systematic studies in language description.

Comparative-Historical Linguistics in the Twentieth Century

The discovery of Tocharian and Hittite-Luwian languages. The Laryngeal Theory. New theories on Indo-European proto-language structures and the emergence of various grammatical categories: Émile Benveniste, Ferdinand de Saussure, Edgar Sturtevant, Holger Pedersen, and Jerzy Kuryłowicz.

Problems of reconstruction. Comparative-historical linguistics and the study of function words. Linguistic paleontology and the theory of language macrofamilies: Vladislav Illich-Svitych, Tamaz Gamkrelidze, and Vyacheslav Ivanov.

Wilhelm von Humboldt's Linguistic Views

Philosophy of language. The theory of language forms. The concept of the inner form of language. Language and thought. The concept of national spirit (Volksgeist). Language as activity and language as the product of activity. Principles of typological language classification. Wilhelm von Humboldt's view of language as a unique representation of the world.

Universal-Logical Approach in Nineteenth-Century Linguistics

Karl Becker's concept of the "organism of language." Becker's views on the psychogenesis of speech, the relationship between logic and grammar, and logical, grammatical, and etymological forms. Fyodor Buslaev on the relationship between grammatical forms and the laws of thought, and the boundaries between logic and grammar. Logical-syntactic principles in the classification of parts of speech and sentence elements.

Naturalistic Approach

August Schleicher's theory. Language as a living organism. Two stages of language development. Concepts of meaning and relations in language. Typological classification of languages. The notion of the proto-language and the principles of family-tree classification and reconstruction. Johannes Schmidt's Wave Theory. Max Müller's theory as a special form of naturalism.

Psychological Approach

Psychology and linguistics in the second half of the nineteenth century. Heymann Steinthal's linguistic system. Criticism of the logical approach. The theory of linguistic thinking and inner form. Ethnic psychology. Alexander Potebnya's linguistic views. The semantic orientation of Potebnya's studies.

The theory of the sign nature of words. Rejection of polysemy. Word and context. Theories of grammatical form and grammatical meaning, the formation of parts of speech and sentence members. Wilhelm Wundt's linguistic views. The concept of folk psychology. Concepts of explanatory meanings and sign languages. Theory of the sentence.

The Neogrammarian School

Positivist and individual-psychological foundations of German Neogrammarian thought. The Leipzig School Manifesto and its main theses. Hermann Osthoff and Karl Brugmann.

The theory of sound laws and analogy. Concepts of relative and absolute chronology. Neogrammarian "atomism." Hermann Paul's theory. Language history as the subject and content

of linguistics. Description of the communication process. Individual, society, and language. Language and dialects. Improvement and development of the comparative-historical method.

The Moscow Linguistic School

Linguistic views of Filipp Fortunatov. Theories of grammatical form and grammatical meaning. The concept of zero form. The theory of grammatical classes of words. Word as a type of sign.

Phrase theory. Comparative-historical linguistics and typology in Fortunatov's works. Alexey Shakhmatov's contribution to general and comparative-historical linguistics. Linguistic views of A.M. Peshkovsky, V.M. Lyapunov, D.N. Ushakov, M.M. Pokrovsky, and others.

The Kazan Linguistic School

Formation of the Kazan Linguistic School and its research program. Linguistic views of Jan Baudouin de Courtenay: language development, statics and dynamics, language as a socio-psychological phenomenon, the development of phoneme and morpheme theory, the emergence of experimental phonetics, and the systemic concept of language.

The concept of alternation. Analysis of descriptive methodology principles. The origin of language and the causes of language change. V.N. Krushevsky's theory of the sign nature of language.

V.A. Bogoroditsky's theory of major morphological processes. Issues related to parts of speech and sentence structure. Experimental approaches to phonetics.

The Aesthetic School

The influence of Wilhelm von Humboldt's and Benedetto Croce's ideas on Karl Vossler. Linguistics as applied aesthetics. Stylistics as a universal discipline. Linguistics and literary studies.

The "Words and Things" School

Hugo Schuchardt and Rudolf Meringer as representatives of the "Words and Things" school. Criticism of the Neogrammarian theory of sound laws. Language contact phenomena. Onomasiological studies.

Areal Linguistics and Neolinguistics

Dialectology and linguistic geography. The theory of linguistic continuity. Isoglosses. Issues of linguistic geography in the works of Italian neolinguists: Matteo Bartoli, Vittore Pisani, and Giuliano Bonfante. The substrate theory of Graziadio Isaia Ascoli. Pisani's application of areal linguistics and language union studies in comparative-historical research.

General Linguistic Issues in the Works of Ferdinand de Saussure

Definition of language. The relationship between language and speech. External and internal linguistics. Synchrony and diachrony. Syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations in language and speech. Definition of signs and sign systems. Types and properties of linguistic

signs. Ferdinand de Saussure and the works of Alan Gardiner, Émile Benveniste, and Eugenio Coseriu.

French Sociolinguistics

Antoine Meillet's concept of language as a social phenomenon. His contribution to comparative-historical linguistics and justification of the comparative-historical method. The concept of the proto-language. Meillet's views on language mixture.

General linguistic views of Joseph Vendryes. Social ideas of Charles Bally and Albert Sechehaye. The socialization of language according to Marcel Cohen. André Martinet's principle of double articulation and linguistic economy. General linguistic issues in the works of Émile Benveniste.

American Ethnolinguistics

Franz Boas and his studies of Native American languages. American behaviorism: Leonard Bloomfield and Bloomfield's postulate approach. Human language and behavior (stimuli and responses).

Edward Sapir's model theory. Ethnolinguistics (anthropological linguistics) in the United States and its representatives: Franz Boas, Edward Sapir, Sydney Lamb, and Benjamin Lee Whorf. Language and worldview. The relationship between language and culture.

Neo-Humboldtianism

Neo-Humboldtianism and the role of language in thinking and cognition. Leo Weisgerber's theory of language as the "key" to understanding the world. Semantic structure and worldview in Neo-Humboldtian thought. The relationship between subjective and objective factors in language. Language and the linguistic picture of the world. Semantic field theory: Jost Trier and Walter Porzig.

Main Directions of Structuralism

Ferdinand de Saussure and Jan Baudouin de Courtenay as forerunners of linguistic structuralism. Structuralism in the twentieth century. Its relationship to Neogrammarian theory and practice. Methodological foundations for the structural description of language.

Functionalism in the Prague Linguistic School

The functional approach in the Prague Linguistic School: Nikolai Trubetzkoy, Roman Jakobson, Vilém Mathesius, and others. Trubetzkoy's phonological theory. The concept of the phoneme. The theory of oppositions. The Theory of Functional Sentence Perspective (Vilém Mathesius).

Roman Jakobson's theory of universal phonology and its features. Grammatical studies of Vilém Mathesius. Functional sentence perspective. Functional categories and the differentiation of the literary language. Typological studies of the Prague School. The theory of linguistic unions (*Sprachbunds*).

Glossematics (Danish or Copenhagen Structuralism)

Representatives, major issues, methodology, and research methods. Louis Hjelmslev, Viggo Brøndal, and Hans Jørgen Uldall. Language and speech. Language as a system of signs.

Methods of linguistic analysis. Expression plane and content plane. Signs and symbols. Form and substance. Variant and invariant. Types and techniques of linguistic analysis in glossematics.

Descriptive Linguistics (American Structuralism)

A system of postulates about language. Distributional models. Bernard Bloch, George Trager, Charles Hockett, and Zellig Harris. The concept of language strata. Allophones and allomorphs. Immediate Constituent (IC) Analysis.

Transformational Analysis. Transformational-Generative Grammar: Noam Chomsky and Robert Lees. Approaches to linguistic meaning and stages of theoretical development. Main types of derivational mechanisms.

French Functional School

André Martinet. Critical evaluation of the achievements and limitations of linguistic structuralism and functionalism.

The London Linguistic School

Concepts of the nature of language in the works of representatives of the London School, particularly J.R. Firth. Ideas of J.R. Firth and Bronisław Malinowski regarding the relationship between language and the individual. The problem of meaning and its place in linguistic analysis. Issues of language structure in the works of W. Allen and M.A.K. Halliday.

Russian Linguistics

Formation of modern Russian linguistic theory: L.V. Shcherba, L.P. Yakubinsky, P.S. Kuznetsov, V.V. Vinogradov, S.G. Barkhudarov, B.A. Larin, N.Yu. Shvedova, and others.

The study of language and its relationship to culture, folk psychology, and mythology in the works of F.I. Buslaev, A.A. Potebnya, and A.N. Afanasyev, as well as the theory of the word in the works of I. Smirnitsky.

Ideas of sociolinguistics and their reflection in the works of M.N. Peterson, R.O. Shor, and E.D. Polivanov. Glottogenetic processes. N.Ya. Marr and his linguistic theory. I.I. Meshchaninov on syntactic typology. Debates concerning the phoneme. Different views on structuralism. Functional approaches in contemporary Russian linguistics.

Linguistics in Kazakhstan

Kazakh linguistics as an integral part of Turkic studies (N.I. Ilminsky, V.V. Radlov, S.E. Malov, P.M. Melioransky, V.V. Katarinsky, A. Kuryshzhanov, and others).

Studies of the Kazakh language by A. Baitursynov, K. Zhubanov, I. Kenesbayev, S. Amanzholov, Y. Mamanov, N. Sauranbayev, G. Musayev, M. Balaqayev, A. Kaidarov, R. Syzdykova, and others.

General linguistic theories of A. Baitursynov and K. Zhubanov. Issues of Kazakh orthography and script reform: A. Baitursynov, K. Zhubanov, A.S. Amanzholov, E. Omarov, H. Dosmukhamedov, and others.

Language Families and Typological Classification

Language macrofamilies. The agglutinative language type: examples and general characteristics. The fusional language type: examples and general characteristics. The isolating language type: examples and general characteristics. The polysynthetic language type: examples and general characteristics. Genetic and typological characteristics of the Russian language.

Language Development

Language development. Processes of convergence and divergence. Genetic and typological characteristics of the Kazakh language. Genetic and typological characteristics of the English language. Genetic characteristics of the Kazakh and Russian languages. Typological characteristics of the Kazakh and Russian languages. Genetic characteristics of the Russian and English languages. Typological characteristics of the Russian and English languages.

Methods of Linguistic Research

Methods and techniques of linguistics.

Methods of linguistic research:

- Comparative-Historical Method;
- Descriptive Method;
- Contrastive Method;
- Componential Analysis;
- Semantic Analysis;
- Associative Experiment.

Phonetics and Phonology

The concept of the phonetic system. Subject matter and objectives of phonetics. Anthropophonics and phonology. Theoretical, practical, and experimental phonetics. Contrastive phonetics. Historical phonetics. The concept of the phoneme. Sound and phoneme. Perceptive and significative functions of the phoneme. Distinctive and non-distinctive (integral) features of phonemes. Phoneme variants (allophones).

Lexicology and Phraseology

The word as the object of lexicology. Types of words in language. Word and morpheme.

Branches of lexicology:

- Semasiology;
- Onomasiology;

- Etymology;
- Lexicography.

Phraseology.

Free and fixed word combinations. Classification of phraseological units according to semantic integrity and structural organization.

Syntax

Word combinations and sentences. Characteristics of word combinations. Characteristics of sentences. Simple sentences. Syntagms within simple sentences.

Stylistic Stratification of Vocabulary

Stylistic classification of vocabulary. Stylistically neutral words. Bookish vocabulary. Colloquial and common vocabulary. Vocabulary of the literary language and dialect vocabulary. Lexical features of different social groups.

Writing Systems

Theory and history of writing. Writing symbols and their types. Types of writing systems. Pictography. Ideography. Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. Sumerian writing. Syllabic writing systems. Alphabetic writing systems in the modern world.

Languages of the Peoples of Kazakhstan

Languages of the peoples of Kazakhstan: genetic characteristics. Languages of the peoples of Kazakhstan: typological characteristics. The language situation in Kazakhstan. Language policy and language planning in Kazakhstan.

Sociolinguistics

Purpose, subject matter, and object of sociolinguistics. Language and society. Diglossia and bilingualism. Regional and social differentiation of languages: dialect vs. sociolect.

Language Contact Theory

Language interference: causes and methods of overcoming it. Creole and pidgin languages. The problem of linguistic unions (*Sprachbunds*). Relations between the Kazakh and Russian languages. Loanwords. Problems of bilingualism in language contact situations.

Course: Computational Linguistics

Linguistic Semiotics and Language Types

Semiotics. Sign systems. The problem of the sign. The sign nature of language. The unity of the plane of content and the plane of expression. Classification of linguistic signs. Theories of the linguistic sign.

Natural and artificial languages. Types and structures of artificial information languages. Formalized languages (programming languages, information retrieval languages).

Natural Language Processing

Natural Language Processing (NLP) systems. Logical and mathematical approaches to language study. The modular concept of language. Algorithmization of language. Natural language as a means of human-machine communication. Artificial Intelligence.

Computational Linguistics as an Applied Linguistic Discipline

Computational linguistics and automation in linguistics. Computational linguistics: object, purpose, and objectives. Main directions of computational linguistics. Cognitive tools of computational linguistics. Levels of linguistic data processing and their interaction with information systems.

Mathematical Linguistics

Mathematical linguistics, computational linguistics, and computer linguistics: objectives, tasks, and research methods. Automatic speech recognition and speech synthesis. Automated methods for processing textual information.

Automation of Information Processes

Automation of information-related activities. Development of automated information retrieval systems. Methods for automated abstracting and summarization. The significance of automating administrative and organizational management processes.

Machine Translation

Automatic (machine) translation: history, objectives, tasks, and future prospects. Machine translation and artificial intelligence. Machine translation systems: Kazakh–Russian–Kazakh and Kazakh–English–Kazakh.

The sequence of formal operations involved in analysis and synthesis within automated translation systems.

Quality of Machine Translation

Quality assessment of machine translation and its dependence on text volume, structure, and lexical information quality. Current state and future prospects of machine translation. Problems of standardization, codification, and unification of linguistic resources.

Automatic Text Processing

Automatic text processing (modification of texts in natural or artificial languages using computers). Software for text processing.

Automated systems designed for compiling frequency dictionaries, word indexes, and concordances, as well as creating databases that enable dictionary management and question-answer interaction with texts.

Statistical methods in lexicography using computer technologies.

Computational Lexicography

Electronic lexicographic resources: explanatory dictionaries, linguistic dictionaries and reference books, encyclopedias. Information dictionaries. Text-lexicographic systems.

Dictionary lemmatization. Formal representation of the Kazakh lexicon. Structure of an automated dictionary of the Kazakh language. Author-specific automated dictionaries.

Hypertext and Hypertext Systems

Hypertext and hypertext systems. Computerized data for linguistic research. Databases in linguistic research. Integrum databases. Linguistic portals and online linguistic resources. Language corpora.

Hypertext technologies. Components of hypertext systems.

Computers and Communication

Computers and communication. Mass media. Computer models utilizing knowledge representation methods. Linguistics as a source for computer modeling of language and thought.

Computer-Assisted Language Learning

Computer-assisted learning programs. Computer-based implementation of audiolingual and audiovisual methods in linguistics and language teaching strategies.

Computer Systems in Language Teaching

Computer systems for language learning. Expert tutoring systems in linguistics. Internet resources for users. Basic computer technologies. Virtual universities.

Distance Language Learning

Linguistic foundations of distance language learning. Opportunities and prospects of electronic mail. Etiquette in human-machine communication. Information security and data protection.

V. References

Main References

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