Hi David and Bob,

Thanks a lot for your reply. I changed the names of the files to
braintest.c and braintest.pro and changed the return value to IDL_INT
(;-))

PRO braintest

```
sc = 5.0
 xx=CALL_EXTERNAL('/home/upadiga/work/IDLwork/braintest.so',' braintest',
sc)
print, sc
end
```

```c
#include <stdio.h>

#include <math.h>

#include "/usr/local/rsi/idl_6.0/external/include/idl_export.h"

float Scale;

IDL_INT braintest(int argc, char *argv[])

 {

 Scale  = *(float *) argv[0];


 Scale = pow(Scale, 5);

 return(1);

}
```

and compiled with

```
gcc -c -fPIC braintest.c
ld -shared -o braintest.so braintest.o
```

```
IDL>.r braintest
IDL>braintest
```

gives me the error message:

% CALL_EXTERNAL: Error loading sharable executable.
        Symbol: braintest, File =
        /home/upadiga/work/IDLwork/braintest.so
        /home/upadiga/work/IDLwork/braintest.so: cannot open
shared
        object file: No such file or directory
% Execution halted at: BRAINTEST   4
  /home/upadiga/work/IDLwork/braintest.pro
% $MAIN$

This is very similar to the earlier one.

The file "braintest.so" is there in "/home/upadiga/work/IDLwork/"
directory.

I copied the shared library file "braintest.so" to
"/usr/local/rsi/idl_6.0/bin/bin.linux.x86/" and tried again. The error
message is the same. I then copied the "braintest.so" to
"/home/upadiga/.idl/idl_6_0_linux_x86_m32_f64/compile_dir/" and ran the
idl program again but the error message is same!!

Is there any problem in my compilation and loading commands. Do I have to
make some file to direct the dll (like I used make in IDL5.5 on
Windows2000).

Please let me know!

Thanks again,

umesh
If not, I am not sure where is the problem!?