UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 2011

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: Introduction to the Study of Language II

COURSE NUMBER: AL 112/IDE-AL112

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.
2. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION A.
3. CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FROM SECTION B.

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Section A

SYNTAX

Answer Question 1 and EITHER Question 2 OR Question 3.

QUESTION 1

Consider the following sentence:

Malachi carved the statue in the parlor.

a) Draw two different phrase-structure trees for this sentence.   [15 marks]

b) Choose one of the phrase-structure trees in (a). Give one example of each of the following in this tree:

1. S
2. NP
3. VP
4. PP
5. Det   [10 marks]

QUESTION 2

a) Define the following terms:

1. node
2. branch
3. sister
4. mother
5. indirect domination   [15 marks]

b) Choose one of the phrase-structure trees in Question 1(a). Give one example of each of the terms in (a) from this tree.   [10 marks]

QUESTION 3

a) What is the purpose of the substitution test and the stand-alone test?   [5 marks]

b) For each of the phrase-structure trees in Question (1a), apply the substitution test and the stand-alone test to the direct object NP and give the results. [20 marks]

Section B

SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

*Answer any **TWO** Questions from this Section*

QUESTION 4

Consider the following expression and then answer all the questions that follow.

Can you kindly show me your watch again.

a)	What is the locution of the statement?	(2 marks)
b)	What is its illocution?	(2 marks)
c)	What is its possible perlocution?	(2 marks)
b)	Give one of its presuppositions.	(2 marks)

e) Using the presupposition you gave in (d) above, give an answer that would;

	i)	deny the presupposition	(2 marks)
	ii)	acknowledge the presupposition	(2 marks)
	iii)	restate the presupposition	(2 marks)

iv) accept the presupposition and then supply an appropriate response (2 marks)

f) Give three conditions that would make the above statement felicitous.

(3 marks)

Suppose the hearer gives the following response:

You mean my watch, I bought it at the OK.

g) What Grician principle would he/she be violating?. Explain why you say this.

(4 marks)

h) What would be one reason for the hearer to violate this principle?

(2 marks)

QUESTION 5

a) The meaning of meaning has been associated with a number of semantic concepts. Discuss fully **any two** of the following semantic concepts in relation to how far each one of them goes in defining meaning and also show the shortcomings of each one of them.

i) referential theory of meaning
ii) mentalist theory of meaning
iii) semantic feature theory of meaning

(10)

b) Define the term ambiguity. (1)

c) With the aid of examples explain the difference between structural ambiguity and lexical ambiguity. (4)

d) Disambiguate each of the following sentences by writing sentences that convey those different meanings associated with the ambiguous sentences:

i) The Rabbi married my sister.
ii) They are moving sidewalks.
iii) Visiting strangers can be dangerous at night.
iv) They shot the thief with a gun.
v) She can't bear children. (10)

[25 MARKS]

QUESTION 6

a) With the aid of examples from any language of your choice explain the difference between semantics and pragmatics. (6)

b) What do we mean by the term deixis? (1)

c) Identify and name all the deixis that are used in the following sentences.

      i) You left me standing here.

      ii) Now he must explain it there.

      iii) They were told to phone in an hour

      iv) I loved you then. (6)

d) Explain what is meant by the illocutionary force of an expression. In your answer concentrate on locution, illocution and perlocution. (12)

END OF QUESTION PAPER