

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2012**

**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.**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.**

## **Section A**

### **SYNTAX**

*Answer any TWO (2) questions from this section.*

#### **QUESTION 1**

i) Define each of the following concepts:

a) innateness of language [5 marks]

b) Language Acquisition Device [5 marks]

c) Universal Grammar [5 marks]

ii) Describe the role of each of these concepts in explaining how human children acquire their first languages. [5 marks]

iii) For each of these concepts, state whether it is a property of competence or performance.

[5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

#### **QUESTION 2**

i) Give phrase structure rules for each of the following categories:

a) S [2 marks]

b) NP [2 marks]

c) VP [2 marks]

d) PP [2 marks]

ii) Show how these rules may be used to produce an infinite set of English sentences.

[15 marks]

iii) With reference to (ii), what property do these rules have which makes this possible?

[2 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

### **QUESTION 3**

Consider the following sentence:

a) Rachel pinched the president of Russia.

i) Give the passive sentence corresponding to sentence (a). [1 mark]

ii) Draw a complete phrase structure tree for sentence (a). [10 marks]

iii) For the tree in (ii), identify two (2) nodes in a relation of direct domination. Justify your choice. [7 marks]

iv) For the tree in (ii), identify one example of two nodes which are sisters. Justify your choice. [7 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

## **Section B**

### **SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS**

*Answer any TWO Questions from this section.*

#### **QUESTION 4**

Define each of the following terms. For each term, give two (2) examples, each from a different language.

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| a) antonym            | [5 marks]         |
| b) synonym            | [5 marks]         |
| c) hyponym            | [5 marks]         |
| d) homonym            | [5 marks]         |
| e) semantic ambiguity | [5 marks]         |
|                       | [Total: 25 marks] |

#### **QUESTION 5**

i) Define each of the following maxims of conversation. For each maxim, describe a situation that illustrates it.

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| a) Manner | [5 marks] |
|-----------|-----------|

- b) Quality [5 marks]
- c) Relation [5 marks]
- d) Quantity [5 marks]
- ii) Describe the difference between illocutionary intent and illocutionary force. [5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

### **QUESTION 6**

Consider the following sentence:

a) Can you pass the salt?

- i) What is the literal meaning of this sentence? [5 marks]
- ii) What speech act may be performed using sentence (a) with its literal meaning? [5 marks]
- iii) Describe one likely conversational implicature of this sentence. [6 marks]
- iv) Describe how the conversational implicature in (iii) may arise from the context of utterance.

[9 marks]

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**