

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION MAY 2013

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE II

COURSE CODE : IDE-AL112

TIME ALLOCATION: 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 TWO questions from this section

Question 1

- a) Indicate the grammatical category of the underlined word in the following sentences. State whether each word is a lexical or non-lexical category.

Example: *That glass broke.* = verb – lexical category

- i) **These** tall trees are blocking the road.
- ii) A jogger ran **towards** the end of the lane.
- iii) The detective looked **through** the **records**.
- iv) The peaches **never** appear **quite** ripe.
- v) Jeremy **will** play the trumpet and the drum **in** the orchestra.

[15]

- b) Each of the following phrases consists of a specifier and a head. Draw a tree structure representing these phrases.

- i) the zoo
- ii) always try
- iii) less bleak
- iv) very competent
- v) never surrender

[10]

[25 marks]

Question 2

- a) Apply either the *movement test* or the *substitution test* to determine whether the bolded sequences in the following sentences form constituents.

- i) **The news** upset **the family**.
- ii) They hid **in the cave**.
- iii) We ate lunch **at the beach**.
- iv) **The island** has been flooded **since last week**.
- v) Jane will **leave town**.

[15]

b) Give the subcategorization requirements of the following verbs, and then justify your answer by creating a sentence using the subcategorization requirement given.

i) Put

ii) Expire

iii) Cut

[10]

[25 marks]

Question 3

a) Draw a phrase-structure tree for the following sentence.

Mary broke the locked door with a sledgehammer.

[10]

b) From the above sentence, give an example of the following:

i) Instrument

ii) Agent

iii) Theme

iv) Direct domination

v) Sisters

[10]

c) In the above sentence, *broke* has been used as a ditransitive verb. Support this statement using evidence from the sentence.

[5]

[25 marks]

SECTION B: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer two questions from this section

Question 4

- a) Define the following semantic relations. Illustrate your definition using two (2) examples each.
- i) Gradable antonyms
 - ii) Contradiction
 - iii) Entailment
 - iv) Polysemy
 - v) Synonyms [15]

- b) Consider the sentence below and then answer the questions that follow:

“Open the safe now or else”

- i) What type of performative is this? Why do you say so? [2]
- ii) If the opposite of the performative given above were used, how would the utterance look like? [2]
- iii) What is the locution of the above utterance? [1]
- iv) What is its illocution? [1]
- v) Give two of its perlocutions. [2]
- vi) Give two conditions that would make the above utterance felicitous. [2]

[25 marks]

Question 5

- a) Grice (1975) formulated four maxims that form part of the Cooperative principle. With the use of elaborate examples, discuss these maxims. [12]
- b) Choose any two of these maxims and indicate how they may be flouted, stating the reason why each is flouted. [4]
- c) Give three examples of speech acts. For each type of speech act, give an example of an utterance that may be used to perform that act from a language of your choice. [9]

[25 marks]

Question 6

- a) What type of speech act is represented by the following utterances:
- i) If you cross that line, I'll shoot you!
 - ii) If you get all A's, I'll buy you a car!
 - iii) You did an excellent job on that presentation.
 - iv) I'm sorry; I'll pay to have your jacket cleaned.
 - v) May I have an extension on the due date for my paper? [5]
- b) In a language of your choice, give your own examples of the types of speech acts identified in (a) above. [5]
- c) The following sentences may be lexically or structurally ambiguous, or both. First identify whether each sentence is lexically or structurally ambiguous, and then provide two meanings that can be deduced from each sentence.
- i) We laughed at the colourful ball.
 - ii) SQUAD HELPS DOG BITE VICTIM
 - iii) The police were urged to stop drinking by the fifth.
 - iv) Is he really that kind?
- [12]
- d) Using any *constituent test*, disambiguate (c, i) above. [3]

[25 marks]