

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2013

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: Introduction to the Study of Language II

COURSE NUMBER: 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) predicate argument structure [5 marks]

b) thematic roles [5 marks]

c) grammatical relations [5 marks]

ii) Give one (1) example of a transitive verb from a language of your choice (except English). For this verb, identify its predicate-argument structure and thematic roles. Use a phrase structure tree to show how the thematic roles are associated with grammatical relations.

[10 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 2

i) Draw two (2) different complete phrase structure trees for the following sentence:

a) Fred hid the map in the closet. [12 marks]

ii) Apply the Substitution test to the direct object NP in each of the trees you drew in (i) and give the result. [4 marks]

iii) Define each of the following. Give one example of each from one of the trees you drew in (i).

b) direct domination

c) indirect domination

d) sisters

[9 marks]

QUESTION 3

i) Give one (1) example of an active sentence from a language of your choice (except English).

[2 marks]

ii) Give the passive equivalent of the sentence you gave in (1).

[2 marks]

iii) Define truth conditions.

[5 marks]

iv) What are the truth conditions of the active sentence? Are the truth conditions of the active sentence the same as those of the passive?

[6 marks]

v) Explain how passive verbal morphology alters the predicate-argument structure of the verb in the active sentence to generate the passive sentence.

[10 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) Contradiction | [5 marks] |
| b) Entailment | [5 marks] |
| c) Paraphrase | [5 marks] |
| d) Denotation/Reference | [5 marks] |
| e) Connotation | [5 marks] |
| | [Total: 25 marks] |

QUESTION 5

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Speech act | [5 marks] |
| b) Performative | [5 marks] |
| c) Illocutionary force | [5 marks] |
| d) Illocutionary intent | [5 marks] |
| e) Cooperative Principle | [5 marks] |
| | [Total: 25 marks] |

QUESTION 6

Consider the following sentence:

a) How many times have I told you not to chase the cat?

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]

[Total: 25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER