

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2014
B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: Introduction to the Study of Language II

COURSE NUMBER: AL 112 Full Time

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

a) Humphrey repaired the motorcycle in the shed. [12 marks]

ii) Define the subject and direct object of a sentence. Illustrate your definitions using one of the phrase structure trees you drew in (i). [3 marks]

ii) Define the Cleft test. Apply the Cleft test to the direct object in each of the trees you drew in (i) and give the results. [6 marks]

iii) Define the Substitution test. Apply the Substitution test to the subject of one of the trees you drew in (i) and give the result. [4 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 2

i) Give one (1) example of a sentence with a transitive verb from a language of your choice. [4 marks]

ii) Give the predicate-argument structure of the verb in the example you gave in (i).

[4 marks]

iii) Using the predicate-argument structure you gave in (ii), indicate the grammatical relation that is associated with each argument.

[4 marks]

iv) Draw a complete phrase structure tree for the sentence you gave in (i).

[5 marks]

v) Using the tree you drew in (iv), indicate how grammatical relations link arguments to positions in this tree.

[8 marks]

QUESTION 3

i) Give one (1) example of a passive sentence from a language of your choice.

[2 marks]

ii) Give the active equivalent of the sentence you gave in (i).

[2 marks]

iii) Explain how the predicate-argument structure in the sentence you gave in (i) differs from the predicate-argument structure of the sentence you gave in (ii).

[6 marks]

iv) Define truth conditions. Are the truth conditions of the sentences you gave in (i) and (ii) the same or different? Explain your answer.

[9 marks]

v) What is the difference between the sentences you gave in (i) and (ii)? Indicate the difference in predicate-argument structures between the two sentences. [6 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) Denotation | [5 marks] |
| b) Connotation | [5 marks] |
| c) Entailment | [5 marks] |
| d) Paraphrase | [5 marks] |
| e) Contradiction | [5 marks] |

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 5

Give five (5) examples of performative speech acts from at least two (2) languages of your choice. For each performative speech act, specify the context in which it is used and the act which it accomplishes. [25 marks]

QUESTION 6

i) Name and define four (4) maxims of conversation.

[16 marks]

ii) For each of the maxims that you gave in (i), give an example that illustrates its application in a conversational situation.

[9 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER