UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 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.

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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) Alistair sold the toys in the closet.   [12 marks]

ii) Give two (2) possible meanings that arise as a result of syntactic ambiguity in the sentence in (i(a)). Indicate which meaning corresponds to each of the trees for this sentence that you drew in (i).   [5 marks]

iii) Passivize the sentences in the two trees you drew in (i) and give the results.
    [4 marks]

iv) Are the passivized sentences which you gave in (iii) syntactically ambiguous? Why or why not?   [4 marks]

QUESTION 2

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

[4 marks]

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

[6 marks]

iii) For the tree you drew in (ii), identify one (1) example of two (2) nodes in a relation of direct domination. Justify your choice. [5 marks]

iv) For the tree you drew in (ii), identify one (1) example of two (2) nodes in a relation of indirect domination. Justify your choice. [5 marks]

v) For the tree you drew in (ii), identify one example of two nodes which are sisters. Justify your choice. [5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 3

i) Give a set of phrase structure rules that has the capacity to produce an infinitely long sentence.
[5 marks]

ii) What property does the rule set you gave in (i) have that enables it to generate an infinitely long sentence? [2 marks]

iii) Demonstrate how the rule set you gave in (i) may be used to generate an infinitely long sentence. [8 marks]

iv) Define competence and performance. Are phrase structure rules an aspect of competence or performance? Justify your answer. [10 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

Section B

SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer any __TWO__ Questions from this section.

QUESTION 4

Give five (5) examples of non-performative speech acts from at least two (2) languages of your choice. For each non-performative speech act, give an example of a context in which it may be used. [25 marks]

QUESTION 5

i) Give two (2) examples of grammatical relations. [2 marks]

ii) Indicate how each of the grammatical relations you gave in (i) may be defined in terms of a phrase structure tree. [4 marks]

iii) Choose one of the grammatical relations that you gave in (i). For this grammatical relation, name three (3) thematic roles which may be associated with it. Give one (1) example sentence for each of these three (3) thematic roles in association with the grammatical relation from a language or languages of your choice. [12 marks]

iv) How does the answer you gave to (iii) show that thematic roles are different from grammatical relations? [7 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 6

Consider the following sentence:

a) Can you close the window?

i) Name three (3) speech acts that may be performed by using sentence (a).   [3 marks]

ii) For each of the three (3) speech acts you gave in (i), describe three (3) contexts of utterance in which sentence (a) may be used to perform the act.   [12 marks]

iii) For two (2) of the contexts of utterance you described in (ii), explain how the form of sentence (a) is appropriate for the speech act performed in that context.   [10 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER