

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2015

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) Give an English sentence that is syntactically ambiguous. [3 marks]

ii) Explain why the sentence you gave in (i) is syntactically ambiguous. [4 marks]

iii) Draw one (1) complete phrase structure tree for the sentence you gave in (i)
[6 marks]

iv) Use the tree you drew in (iii) to illustrate each of the following:

a) direct domination [4 marks]

b) indirect domination [4 marks]

c) sisters [4 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 2

i) Name three (3) tests for constituency, excluding syntactic ambiguity. [3 marks]

ii) Illustrate each of the tests that you gave in (i) with sentences from at least two (2) languages of your choice. Explain how each of your sentences illustrates the test. [22 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 3

i) Give an example of an active sentence and its corresponding passive sentence from a language of your choice. Indicate the name of the language. Translate examples which are not in English.

[4 marks]

ii) Give the predicate-argument structure of the verb in the active and passive examples you gave in (i).

[5 marks]

iii) Name two (2) grammatical relations. Give a structural definition of each of these grammatical relations.

[10 marks]

iv) Show how arguments are associated with grammatical relations in the active and passive examples you gave in (i).

[6 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

Section B

SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer any TWO Questions from this section.

QUESTION 4

Answer each of the following questions:

- i) What is a speech act? [4 marks]
- ii) What is the difference between a performative speech act and a non-performative speech act? [7 marks]
- iii) Give one (1) locution that may be used to perform a performative speech act from any language except English. Identify one (1) situation in which this performative speech act may be used. [7 marks]
- iv) Give one (1) locution that may be used to perform a non-performative speech act from any language except English. Identify one (1) situation in which this non-performative speech act may be used. [7 marks]

[Total=25 marks]

QUESTION 5

Explain the difference between each of the following sets of terms. Use at least one (1) example to illustrate your explanation.

- i) Entailment and paraphrase [6 marks]
- ii) Denotation and connotation [6 marks]
- iii) Illocutionary intent and illocutionary force [6 marks]
- iv) Contradiction and ambiguity [6 marks]

[24 marks + 1 style mark = 25 marks total]

QUESTION 6

Answer the following questions:

i) State and explain the Cooperative Principle.

[4 marks]

ii) State and explain three (3) of H.P. Grice's maxims of conversation.

[12 marks]

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

[9 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER