

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 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) Draw two (2) different complete phrase structure trees for the following sentence:

a) The farmer harvested the maize in the field. [12 marks]

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

iii) Cleft the direct object in each of the trees you drew in (i) and give the results. [4 marks]

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

#### QUESTION 2

Name and define seven (7) thematic roles. Give an example of each of these thematic roles from any language except English. [25 marks]

### **QUESTION 3**

Answer the following questions.

i) Give a set of phrase structure rules which have the capacity to generate a potential infinite sentence. What is this capacity called? [6 marks]

ii) Demonstrate how the rules you gave in (i) operate to generate a potentially infinite sentence. [6 marks]

iii) Define competence and performance. [6 marks]

iv) Is the capacity to generate a potentially infinite sentence an aspect of competence or performance? Justify your answer. [7 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

## Section B

### SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

*Answer any TWO Questions from this section.*

#### QUESTION 4

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

#### QUESTION 5

Define each of the following terms. Give one (1) example of each term from any language except English.

- i. Denotation
- ii. Contradiction
- iii. Entailment
- iv. Paraphrase
- v. Connotation

[25 marks]

#### QUESTION 6

i) Name two (2) speech acts that may be performed by using the following sentence:

a) Can you buy bread today?

[4 marks]

ii) For each of the two (2) speech acts you gave in (i), describe two (2) contexts of utterance in which sentence (a) may be used to perform the act. [8 marks]

iii) For each of the two (2) speech acts you gave in (i), describe two (2) conditions that would make the speech act felicitous. [5 marks]

iv) For the two (2) contexts of utterance you described in (ii), explain how the form of sentence (a) is appropriate for the speech act performed in that context. [8 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**