

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION MAY 2016

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE II

COURSE CODE : IDE-AL112

TIME ALLOCATION: 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**
 - 4. Marks will be deducted for untidy work**

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BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION B: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Question 4

- a) Consider the sentence “*Noma regrets that she stopped doing Syntax before she left the university*”, and then answer the following questions;
- i. What type of semantic relation does the sentence represent? Explain. [5]
 - ii. Give four interpretations represented by the highlighted sentence above. [12]
- b) Give two pairs of sentences that illustrate entailment, and then explain their relationship. [8]

Question 5

Using examples to support your discussion, define the following linguistic terms:

- a) Connotation and denotation [8]
- b) Possible worlds semantics [5]
- c) Extension and intension [8]
- d) Truth conditions [4]

Question 6

- a) What are the three felicity conditions that accompany the performance of a speech act? [9]
- b) Using the three conditions given in (a) above, exemplify how an utterance of your choice would be felicitous. [12]
- c) Give two conditions under which the utterance given in (b) above would misfire. [4]

SECTION A: SYNTAX

Question 1

Compare and contrast Chomsky's nativist approach with any other theory of First Language Acquisition. State your views on each of these theories. [25]

Question 2

Consider the sentence, "**I will return your tests but I expect corrections**" then answer the questions that follow:

- a) What type of phrases is conjoined by *but* in the above sentence? Explain. [5]
- b) Draw a phrase structure tree to represent the sentence above. [15]
- c) Grammatical relations often say something about the thematic role(s) of the different NPs in a sentence. Using two examples from any languages of your choice, illustrate this statement. [5]

Question 3

- a) Give an example of one sentence with four clearly labelled constituents. [5]
- b) Using the sentence given in (a) above, apply the substitution and movement tests. Give evidence of false application of each test. [20]