UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER

MAY 2018

TITLE OF PAPER: MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX

COURSE CODE: IDE-ALL104

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.

4. LINGUISTIC EXPRESSIONS AND FORMALISM SHOULD BE USED WHENEVER APPROPRIATE.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED.

SECTION A: SYNTAX

CHOOSE TWO (2) QUESTIONS FOR THIS SECTION

QUESTION 1

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

(a) The historian wrote the book in the library. (13)

(ii) Give two (2) possible meanings for sentence (a) in (i). Indicate which of the trees that you drew in (i) corresponds to each meaning. (4)

(iii) Define the substitution test. (2)

(iv) Apply the substitution test to the second NP in each of the trees that you have drawn in (i) and give the result. (3)

(v) What is structural ambiguity? (3)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 2

(i) Define the term syntax. (2)

(ii) Name three (4) thematic roles. (4)

(iii) Use sentences from a language or languages of your choice to illustrate each of the thematic roles that you named in (ii). (8)

(iv) Define predicate-argument structure. (3)

(v) Give the predicate-argument structure of the verb in each sentence that you gave in (iii). (8)

[25 marks]

2

QUESTION 3

(i) Name and define two (2) grammatical relations. Give one (1) example of each grammatical relation from a language or languages of your choice.

(ii) Define valency-changing processes. Give one (1) example of a valency-changing process.

(iii) For the valency-changing process that you gave in (ii), give one (1) example of a sentence in which the process has not taken place, from any language of your choice. Apply the process to this sentence and give the result.

[25 marks]

SECTION B: MORPHOLOGY

QUESTION 4

Define the following terms. For each term, give 1 example from a language of your choice. You may use more than one language in your examples.

(i) Full reduplication (5)

(ii) Suppletion (5)

(iii) Morphophonemics (5)

(iv) Compounding (5)

(v) Allomorphs (5)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 5

(a) With illustrations, explain the following terms:

(i) Bound morphemes (5)

(ii) Free morphemes (5)

(iii) Roots (5)

(b)(i) Define prefixes and suffixes in terms of alignment. (2)

(iii) Give one (1) example of a prefix, suffix and infix from a language or languages of your choice. (3)

(iv) Explain how morpheme alignment may be affected by factors such as syllabic structure in a language. (5)

[25 marks]

QUESTION 6

(i) Name and define three (3) characteristics of derivational morphology that are used to distinguish it from inflectional morphology.

(ii) Give one (1) example of derivational morphology and one (1) example of inflectional morphology from any language or languages of your choice.

(iii) Show how each of the characteristics that you gave in (ii) may be used to justify your choice of examples in (ii).

[25 marks]