UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: December 2018

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: ADVANCED SYNTAX

COURSE NUMBER: ALL204 / IDE ALL204

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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Choose two (2) questions from each section.

SECTION A

Question 1

Give one (1) example of a subject constituent question and one (1) example of an object constituent question in Modern English. Draw complete X-bar theoretic phrase-structure trees for both examples that you give. Show all instances of movement. How do subject and object constituent questions differ in terms of movement? [25 marks]

Question 2

Define each of the following terms: 1) Verb-Second, 2) Head-to-Head movement, 3) X-bar schema, 4) Free Inversion, 5) complement. [25 marks]

Question 3

Give one (1) example of an NP and one (1) example of a VP from Modern English that share a common predicate-argument structure. Include an AdjP in the NP and an AdvP in the VP. Draw complete X-bar theoretic phrase structure trees for the NP and VP you have given. Explain why the AdjP and AdvP cannot appear in the complement position in the X-bar schema.

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Question 4

Define discontinuous dependencies. Name two (2) syntactic constructions with discontinuous dependencies from any two (2) languages of your choice. Give one (1) example of each of the two syntactic constructions that you name in the relevant language. Why are discontinuous dependencies analyzed as instances of movement in generative syntax? [25 marks]

Question 5

Name and define three (3) types of predicate-argument structure. For each type that you name, give two (2) examples of sentences with this predicate-argument structure from any language or languages except Modern English. Why does linguistic theory distinguish between two types of intransitive verb?

Question 6

Define first language acquisition and Universal Grammar. How does X-bar theory contribute to the understanding of both of these areas of linguistics? What are the two (2) basic claims of X-bar theory?

END OF QUESTION PAPER