

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: NOVEMBER 2019

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.**

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

SECTION A

Choose two (2) questions from Section A. Each question is worth 25 marks in total.

Question 1

Give one (1) example of a constituent question with an embedded clause in English (1 mark). Draw a complete X-bar theoretic tree for the constituent question that you have given (21 marks). Identify two (2) instances of movement in the tree you have drawn (3 marks).

Question 2

What is a variable? (5 marks) Write out the three (3) rules of the X-bar schema (9 marks). Identify two (2) variables in the X-bar schema (1 mark). What are the two basic claims of X-bar theory? (4 marks) How does the use of variables in the X-bar schema reflect each of the two basic claims? (6 marks)

Question 3

Name one (1) difference in the distribution of adjectives and adverbs and the distribution of direct object NPs in human languages (2 marks). Illustrate your answer with two (2) examples from any language or languages (4 marks). State which rules of the X-bar schema are used to insert adjectives, adverbs and direct object NPs into phrase-structure trees (2 marks). Explain how the differences between the two X-bar schema rules are used to explain the distributional difference that you have named within X-bar theory (17 marks).

SECTION B

Choose two (2) questions from Section B. Each question is worth 25 marks in total.

Question 4

Define a transitive predicate-argument structure (5 marks). Give one (1) example of an NP and an IP with the same transitive predicate-argument structure in any language (2 marks). Use the X-bar schema and the relevant lexical entry to show how X-bar theory explains both the similarities and differences between this NP and IP (18 marks).

Question 5

Name two (2) types of subject-verb inversion in human language (2 marks). Describe two (2) constructions in which each of these types is found (10 marks). Give one (1) example of each type from any two (2) languages of your choice (2 marks). Name the type of rule that is used to produce subject-verb inversion (1 mark). Use an X-bar theoretic phrase structure tree of one (1) of your examples to illustrate the operation of this rule (10 marks).

Question 6

Define unaccusative and unergative predicate-argument structures (10 marks). Name one (1) similarity and one (1) difference between unaccusative and unergative predicate-argument structures (2 marks). Give two (2) examples apiece of unaccusative and unergative predicate-argument structures from any language or languages of your choice (4 marks). Describe one (1) example of a syntactic difference associated with the difference between unaccusative and unergative verbs (9 marks).

END OF QUESTION PAPER