

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JULY 2008

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX

COURSE NO.: ENG 202

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. THIS PAPER IS DIVIDED INTO TWO (2) SECTIONS**
- 2. ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS, AT LEAST ONE (1) QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
- 3. EACH QUESTION IS WORTH TWENTY (20) MARKS.**
- 4. CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO PAY ATTENTION TO GOOD LANGUAGE AND THE USE OF LINGUISTIC CONVENTIONS.**

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO BY THE INVIGILATOR

SECTION A.

INTRODUCTION TO MORPHOLOGY

Question 1

a) Draw the hierarchical structure of the following words and describe the processes used in their formation.

- i) Irresponsible
- ii) Disestablishment
- iii) Unpalatable
- iv) Exceptional

(10 Marks)

b) In English, the systematic variation of morphemes is determined by certain conditions. Discuss the phonological, grammatical and semantic conditions that trigger such variation. Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.

(10 Marks)

[20Marks]

Question 2

All but one of the following Persian words consist of more than one morpheme.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| a) xaridam | "I bought" |
| b) xaridi | 'You (singular) bought' |
| c) xarid | "he bought" |
| d) naxaridam | "I did not buy" |
| e) namixaridand | "they were not buying" |
| f) naxaridim | "we did not buy" |
| g) mixarid | "he was buying" |

NOTE: xar means "buy" and /-id/ designates the past tense

(i) Match each of the following notions with a morpheme in the Persian data:

- a) I
- b) You (singular)
- c) We
- d) You (pl)
- e) They
- f) Not
- g) Was / were ing (continuous)

(ii) How would you say the following in Persian?

1.

- a) They were buying.
- b) You (sg) did not buy.
- c) You (sg) were buying.

[20Marks]

Question 3

Discuss in detail the following word-formation processes:

- a) Conversion and Clipping
- b) Compounding
- c) Affixation
- d) Blending and Acronymy

[20 Marks]

Question 4

State whether the following word-sequences can be considered as compounds or free morphemes. Explain why?

- a) stock market (5)
- b) cheese cake (5)
- c) wet day (5)
- d) small talk (5)

[20 marks]

SECTION B

INTRODUCTION TO SYNTAX

Question 5

Draw **two** tree diagrams for each of the following sentence to show that they can have two interpretations. Write the interpretation below each tree as signified by the tree diagram.

- a) My sister bought the car in South Africa.
- b) Max is a student with a crewcut.

Note that each tree is worth 5 marks including the meaning

[20Marks]

Question 6

Discuss the following concepts used in syntax. Illustrate each with relevant examples:

- i) Ambiguity
- ii) Phrase structure rules
- iii) Transformational rules
- iv) Substitution Tests for Phrase structure
- v) Coordination / Conjoinability test for phrase structure

[20 Marks]

Question 7

Explain how the following are used to determine the syntactic category of a word;

- a) Meaning
- b) Inflection
- c) Distribution

Give one example to illustrate your answer.

[20Marks]