UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION

MAY 2009

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO MORPHOLOGY
AND SYNTAX

COURSE CODE: ENG 202

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. This paper has four questions

2. Question 1 is compulsory

3. Choose one other question from question 2 to question 4

4. Question 1 is worth forty (40) marks, and question 2 to 4 is worth twenty (20) marks.

5. The presentation of answers should follow linguistic conventions and appropriate language structures.

6. Good language will attract credit.

This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator

Question 1 (Compulsory)

a) What do you understand by the following morphological and syntactic concepts? Use one example of each to illustrate your answer.
  i)   phrase structure rules and tree diagrams
  ii)   derivational and inflectional morphemes
  iii) morphs and allomorphs

(10 marks)

b) State whether the following words can be considered as compounds or free phrases. Discuss briefly the test you have used to reach your conclusion.
  i)   Tooth ache
  ii)   Quick response
  iii) Wet day
  iv)   Stock market

(10 marks)

c) The use of one allomorph instead of the other is said to be phonetically, lexically and grammatically conditioned. Support this statement by explaining each statement, and illustrate it appropriately.

(10 marks)

d) Draw tree diagrams of the following sentences using Chomsky's generative grammar approach.
  i)   The thief ate the food in the kitchen.
  ii)   The swimming pool has been thoroughly cleaned.

(10 marks)

[40 marks]

Question 2

Discuss any two of the following word-formation processes. Use appropriate examples to illustrate your answer:

    a)   Compounding
    b)   Affixation
    c)   Conversion and backformation

[20 marks]

Question 3

a) Draw the hierarchical structure of the following words:
    i)   Unsystematically   (5)
    ii)   Astronomical   (3)
    iii)   Eagerly   (2)
    iv)   impossibility   (3)
b) What is the distinction between a root and a stem? Give an example for each.   (5)
c) What is the distinction between free and bound morphemes? (2)

[20 marks]

Question 4

Discuss in detail the classification of sentences by function or structural type. Use at least four types.

[20 marks]