

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES/INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**MAIN EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2016**

**COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO SYNTAX AND SENTENCE**

**MEANING**

**COURSE CODE : ENG 214/201**

**DURATION : TWO HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS : THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR  
QUESTIONS.**

**ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN TOTAL;  
QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER**

**ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 30 MARKS EACH**

**FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE LINGUISTIC  
CONVENTIONS MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF  
MARKS**

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

## QUESTION 1

Determine the phrase category and syntactic function of the underlined linguistic units in the following sentences.

- a) i) Wandile has become extremely aggressive lately.
- ii) His second book came out earlier this year and became an instant best seller.
- iii) After the publication of his book, he became a celebrity rather suddenly indeed.
- iv) Several students were arrested for being violent.
- v) As he walked majestically to the podium, we couldn't help but envy him.
- vi) The external examiner booked himself a suite at the Royal Villas.
- vii) Oops! I forgot to return the reference book I had borrowed from my lecturer!
- viii) Will willed his estate to the youngest of his children.

[12 marks] (½ for category & ½ for syntactic function)

- b) For each of the italicized phrases in (A) above, suggest the kind of phrase structure rule that is necessary for its form. [ 12 marks]

- c) Provide tree structures for each of the following sentences.

- i) Nombuso proudly accepted the Dean's award. [2 marks]
- ii) I consider her the best candidate. [2 marks]
- iii) She wants to study Linguistics in the near future. [2 marks]

[6 marks]

[Total = 30 marks]

## QUESTION 2

The rank scale of the following text is: phrases → sentences → text.

Identify ten noun phrases, ten adjective phrases and ten auxiliary verbs in the text below. For each of the phrases you have identified, further indicate their syntactic function.

Linguists, it has to be admitted, are strange animals. They get very excited about things that the rest of the species seem almost blind to and fail to see what all the fuss is about. This wouldn't be so bad if linguists were an isolated group. But they are not, and what's more, they have to teach non-linguists about their subject. One mistake that linguists often make is to assume that to teach linguistics, students should be instilled with the kind of enthusiasm for the subject that linguists themselves have. But not everybody wants to be a linguist and, as a friend of mine once said, not everybody *can* be a linguist.

What the dedicated language student wants, however, is not the ability to analyse complex data from languages in exotic regions of the world, or to produce coherent theories that explain why you can't say "his being running" in a more elegant way than anyone else can. What they want from linguistics is to see what the subject can offer them in coming to some understanding of how the language that they are studying works (Newson, 2007).

[30 marks]

## QUESTION 3

- a) With the aid of examples, briefly discuss the characteristic distribution of the adjective phrase. [15 marks]
- b) How is the form of a phrase different from its syntactic and thematic functions? Give examples to support your answer. [15marks]

[30 marks]

#### QUESTION 4

a) With the aid of examples, discuss the different types of sentences in English.

[10 marks]

b) Identify and label each of the sentences below.

- i) Where is my shovel?
- ii) This is the most beautiful lawn I have ever seen.
- iii) Please pass the lemonade.
- iv) My arms ache from digging the flower beds!
- v) It takes hard work to plant all of these flowers.
- vi) Could you please give me the hose?
- vii) I am going to climb that tree.
- viii) The view from the top of this tree is amazing.
- ix) I can't get down!
- x) Please help me to climb down this tree.

[10 marks]

c) The sentences below are ambiguous. Give at least two interpretations entailed in each. ( NB – Question c) i) is a Newspaper headline).

- i) Republicans Grill IRS Chief Over Lost Emails
- ii) I saw a man on a hill with a telescope.
- iii) We saw her duck.
- iv) He fed her cat food.
- v) Look at the dog with one eye.

[10 marks]