

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION JULY 2013

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE II

COURSE CODE : IDE-AL112

TIME ALLOCATION: 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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SECTION A: SYNTAX

Answer two questions from this section

Question 1

a) Assign thematic roles for each NP in the following sentences.

- i) The children ran from the house to school
- ii) John melted the ice with a blowtorch.
- iii) Mary collapsed.
- iv) Helen baked cookies for charity.

[10]

b) With the aid of examples, define the following:

- i) Argument
- ii) Direct object
- iii) Transitive verb
- iv) Intransitive verb
- v) Ditransitive verb

[15]

[25 marks]

Question 2

a) With the aid of an example, define the following

- i) Lexical ambiguity
- ii) Structural ambiguity

[6]

b) Consider the following sentence:

The design has big squares and circles

c) Is the above sentence an example of (i) or (ii) above? Support your answer. [3]

d) Give the two meanings that could be deduced from the above sentence. [4]

e) Draw two phrase-structure trees to represent each meaning, labelling each sentence accordingly. [12]

[25 marks]

Question 3

- a) The following phrases consist of a head, complement and a specifier. Identify the different phrases :
- i) Into the house
 - ii) Perhaps earn the money
 - iii) That argument with Helen
 - iv) The success of the program [4]
- b) Identify the head and its complement in each phrase. [8]
- c) Draw phrase-structure trees for all the phrases in (a) above. [13]

[25 marks]

SECTION B: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Answer two questions from this section

Question 4

- a) Two relations involving word meanings are antonymy and synonymy. Define the two concepts, giving two examples each. [6]
- b) Which relation is illustrated in each of the pairs below:
 - i) Flourish - thrive
 - ii) Intelligent - stupid
 - iii) Casual – informal
 - iv) Young – old
 - v) Uncle – aunt
 - vi) Flog – whip
 - vii) Drunk – sober
 - viii) Intelligent – smart [4]
- c) Of the antonyms identified above, classify them under the different types of antonyms. [4]
- d) With the aid of examples, fully discuss three semantic relations among sentences. [9]
- e) Homophony creates lexical ambiguity. With the use of an example, demonstrate how this is possible, and then indicate how such a structure could be disambiguated. [4]

[25 marks]

Question 5

- a) Define the Cooperative Principle. [2]
- b) Give the four maxims of the Cooperative Principle. [4]
- c) The following utterances are examples of how some of the maxims can be flouted. Identify the maxim flouted in each case. Explain your answer.
 - i) Speaker 1: "I'm out of petrol".
Speaker 2: "There's a garage around the corner".
 - ii) Speaker 1: "Where does John live?"
Speaker 2: "Somewhere in Manzini".
 - iii) "When we moved here, the house was big, now it is small".

- iv) Speaker 1: "What time is it?"
Speaker 2: "You've just missed the bus" [12]
- d) How is ii) a clash of maxims? [4]
- e) If Speaker 2 in (iv) were to respond truthfully, without flouting any maxim, what would be one possible response? [3]

[25 marks]

Question 6

- a) Using the utterance "*The bar will be closed in five minutes*", answer the questions that follow:
- i) What type of speech act is this?
 - ii) What is the illocutionary act of the utterance?
 - iii) What are two perlocutionary acts that can be derived from the utterance?
 - iv) Give three felicity conditions under which the utterance would be truthful.
- [13]
- b) Give three conditions under which the utterance "*As of this moment, your contract has been terminated*" would be felicitous. [6]
- c) Define personal and time deixes, and then identify an example of each in the utterance in (b) above. [6]

[25 marks]