



JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
ARTS WITH IT
4TH YEAR SPECIAL/RESIT EXAMINATION N
CENTRE: MAIN

COURSE CODE: AEN 404

COURSE TITLE: Advances in the Description of English Syntax

EXAM VENUE: **STREAM: BED (ARTS)**

DATE: **EXAM SESSION:**

TIME: 2 HOURS

Instructions:

- 1. Answer question 1(compulsory) and ANY other 2 questions.**
- 2. Candidates are advised not to write on the question paper.**
- 3. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room.**

QUESTION ONE (Compulsory)

- a) In each of the following sentences indicate whether each NP is subject, direct object or oblique and indicate whether each NP is agent or theme.
- Emily purchased a present. (2 marks)
 - The lecture was conducted by an expert. (2 marks)
 - Those books were read by young children. (2 marks)
 - An expert conducted the lecture. (2 marks)
 - A present was purchased by Emily. (2 marks)
- b) Discuss the syntax of the bracketed NPS in the following sentences, presenting empirical arguments to support your analysis.
- I met [a specialist in linguistics from Paris]. (2 marks)
 - [The girl on the stage in jeans] is a friend of mine. (2 marks)
 - [The journey from Bondo to Kisumu on Sunday] was tiring. (2 marks)
 - [The ban on belts with studs in the school] has caused a lot of resentment. (2 marks)
 - [The girl at the disco last week] rang me up yesterday. (2 marks)
- c) Why are transformational rules considered necessary in syntactic description? (4 marks)
- d) Provide all possible expressions that would be exhaustively generated by the following phrase structure rules: NP->Art (Adj) N and NP-> (Art) (Adj) N. (6 marks)

QUESTION TWO

Consider the following sentences

- I hate Emily.
 - You know that I hate Emily.
 - She knows that you know I hate Emily.
- a) Write another sentence that includes sentence (iii) above. (2 marks)
- b) What does these set of sentences reveal about the nature of language? (4 marks)
- c) How is this characteristic of human language related to the difference between linguistic competence and performance? (8 marks)
- d) Paraphrase each of the following sentences in two different ways to show that you understand the ambiguity involved.
- They said she would go yesterday. (2 marks)
 - Terry loves his wife and so do I. (2 marks)
 - That sheepdog is too hairy to eat. (2 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Write out 15 phrase structure rules that the following seven rules abbreviate. (15 Marks)
- S->NP VP
 - S'->Comp S
 - NP->(Art)N'
 - N'->AP N'
N'(PP)
 - VP->V NP PP
S'
 - AP-> (Deg) A
 - PP->P NP
- b) Give two examples of NP recursion, 2 examples of VP recursion and 1 example of Adjective recursion. (5 marks).

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Discuss the nature of the ill-formedness of the following sentences. (5 marks)
- i. John is a living dead man.
 - ii. Two and two is five.
 - iii. I eat much cereal for breakfast.
 - iv. M wife is not my wife.
 - v. I order you to know the answer.
- b) Discuss why the following sentences would be stigmatized by prescriptive grammarians as having 'bad grammar' and say how they would be corrected and whether the corrections are appropriate. (9 marks).
- i. What are you up to?
 - ii. Nobody said nothing.
 - iii. If I was you, I'd resign.
- c) Define the following terms commenting on their importance and illustrating them with examples of your own where appropriate. (6 marks)
- i. Infinite rule governed creativity
 - ii. Linguistic intuition

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Discuss with arguments the structure of the bracketed VPs in the following sentences
- i. He may [have turned against his wife]. (2 marks)
 - ii. I do not [completely agree with you over this]. (3 marks)
 - iii. I will [send some flowers to Mary for you]. (3 marks)
 - iv. He might [run after Mary]. (2 marks)
- b) Discuss the derivation of the following sentences, giving arguments in support of our analysis.
- i. John may sell his car. (2 marks)
 - ii. John has sold his car. (2 marks)
 - iii. John sold his car. (2 marks)
 - iv. Will John sell his car? (2 marks)
 - v. Has John sold his car? (2 marks)