



GRETSA UNIVERSITY - THIKA

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021 SEMESTER

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: ENGL 401

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED ENGLISH SYNTAX

DATE: 18 NOVEMBER 2021

TIME: 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. SECTION A IS **COMPULSORY**.
2. SECTION B: ANSWER ANY OTHER **THREE** QUESTIONS.
3. **DO NOT** WRITE ANYTHING ON THIS QUESTION PAPER AS IT WILL BE AN EXAM IRREGULARITY.
4. ALL ROUGH WORK SHOULD BE AT THE BACK OF YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET AND CROSSED OUT.

CAUTION: All exam rooms are under CCTV surveillance during the examination period.

SECTION A: COMPULSORY

Question One

- a) Identify the type of ambiguity in the following sentences, and state the elements cause that ambiguity. [10 marks]
- i. I saw her duck.
 - ii. Expensive shoes and handbags are durable.
 - iii. They gunned the robbers with guns.
 - iv. I found bats.
 - v. The seamen located the man with a periscope.
- b) With the aid of at least two examples to illustrate your answer, distinguish between obligatory constituents and optional constituents in a sentence. [6 marks]
- c) Identify and correct the errors in the following sentences: [8 marks]
- i. She drives too careful.
 - ii. What did you put the parcel in?
 - iii. He is bigger than she.
 - iv. Who did you meet?
- d) Draw the phrase structure trees of the following sentences: [16 marks]
- i. The extremely arrogant students burned the dormitory. [8 marks]
 - ii. Mary believed that Tom knew the secret. [8 marks]

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY THREE QUESTIONS

Question Two

With the aid of examples, explain the following concepts as used in syntax: [20 marks]

- a) Do-support-
- b) Pruning-
- c) Complementizer phrase-
- d) Kernel sentence-

Question Three

Provide the derivational history of the sentences given below, showing the relevant phrase markers from the deep structure to the surface structure.

- a) Mary does like pizza. [8 marks]
- b) The children did not eat the food. [12 marks]

Question Four

- a) Distinguish between grammatical competence and linguistic performance. **[4 marks]**
- b) Using the sentence below for your illustrations, discuss four methods that are used to test for constituents in a sentence.

The courageous men fought fearlessly in the battle. **[16 marks]**

Question Five

Discuss four weaknesses of phrase structure grammar. Provide suitable illustrations for each weakness. **[20 marks]**

Question Six

- a) What is pruning? **[5 marks]**

It is a housekeeping rule which indicates the deletion of a node that has been left vacant after a transformation.

- b) Providing suitable examples, explain the reason empty categories are said to have a reference, syntactic property but do not have a phonological property. **[15 marks]**

They refer to something hence have a reference.

They have syntactic qualities because they can take the position of objects or even subjects in a sentence that has a transitive verb.

They have no phonological property since they are not pronounceable.

E.G. 'Kimwele wants to love himself' is equal to 'Kimwele wants Kimwele to love himself.'

Hence, in the first sentence, the subject of the second clause is Kimwele, though not included physically in the sentence.