UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: MAY 2012
B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: Introduction to the Study of Language II

COURSE NUMBER: AL 112/IDE-AL112

TIME ALLOWED: 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.

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.
Section A
SYNTAX

Answer any TWO (2) questions from this section.

QUESTION 1

i) Define each of the following concepts:
   a) innateness of language [5 marks]
   b) Language Acquisition Device [5 marks]
   c) Universal Grammar [5 marks]

ii) Describe the role of each of these concepts in explaining how human children acquire their first languages. [5 marks]

iii) For each of these concepts, state whether it is a property of competence or performance. [5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 2

i) Give phrase structure rules for each of the following categories:
   a) S [2 marks]
   b) NP [2 marks]
   c) VP [2 marks]
   d) PP [2 marks]
ii) Show how these rules may be used to produce an infinite set of English sentences.  

[15 marks]

iii) With reference to (ii), what property do these rules have which makes this possible?  

[2 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 3

Consider the following sentence:

a) Rachel pinched the president of Russia.

i) Give the passive sentence corresponding to sentence (a).  

[1 mark]

ii) Draw a complete phrase structure tree for sentence (a).  

[10 marks]

iii) For the tree in (ii), identify two (2) nodes in a relation of direct domination. Justify your choice.  

[7 marks]

iv) For the tree in (ii), identify one example of two nodes which are sisters. Justify your choice.  

[7 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]
Answer any TWO Questions from this section.

**QUESTION 4**

Define each of the following terms. For each term, give two (2) examples, each from a different language.

a) antonym [5 marks]

b) synonym [5 marks]

c) hyponym [5 marks]

d) homonym [5 marks]

e) semantic ambiguity [5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

**QUESTION 5**

i) Define each of the following maxims of conversation. For each maxim, describe a situation that illustrates it.

a) Manner [5 marks]
b) Quality [5 marks]
c) Relation [5 marks]
d) Quantity [5 marks]
i) Describe the difference between illocutionary intent and illocutionary force. [5 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

QUESTION 6

Consider the following sentence:

a) Can you pass the salt?

i) What is the literal meaning of this sentence? [5 marks]

ii) What speech act may be performed using sentence (a) with its literal meaning? [5 marks]

iii) Describe one likely conversational implicature of this sentence. [6 marks]

iv) Describe how the conversational implicature in (iii) may arise from the context of utterance. [9 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER