SECTION B: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Question 4

a) Consider the sentence “Noma regrets that she stopped doing Syntax before she left the university”, and then answer the following questions;

i. What type of semantic relation does the sentence represent? Explain. [5]

ii. Give four interpretations represented by the highlighted sentence above. [12]

b) Give two pairs of sentences that illustrate entailment, and then explain their relationship. [8]

Question 5

Using examples to support your discussion, define the following linguistic terms:

a) Connotation and denotation [8]

b) Possible worlds semantics [5]

c) Extension and intension [8]

d) Truth conditions [4]

Question 6

a) What are the three felicity conditions that accompany the performance of a speech act? [9]

b) Using the three conditions given in (a) above, exemplify how an utterance of your choice would be felicitous. [12]

c) Give two conditions under which the utterance given in (b) above would misfire. [4]
SECTION A: SYNTAX

Question 1

Compare and contrast Chomsky’s nativist approach with any other theory of First Language Acquisition. State your views on each of these theories. [25]

Question 2

Consider the sentence, “I will return your tests but I expect corrections” then answer the questions that follow:

a) What type of phrases is conjoined by but in the above sentence? Explain. [5]

b) Draw a phrase structure tree to represent the sentence above. [15]

c) Grammatical relations often say something about the thematic role(s) of the different NPs in a sentence. Using two examples from any languages of your choice, illustrate this statement. [5]

Question 3

a) Give an example of one sentence with four clearly labelled constituents. [5]

b) Using the sentence given in (a) above, apply the substitution and movement tests. Give evidence of false application of each test. [20]