UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER: May 2017

B.A. DEGREE

TITLE OF PAPER: ADVANCED SYNTAX

COURSE NUMBER: ALL204

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.

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SECTION A

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 1

(i) Define Head-to-Head movement.

(ii) Name two (2) types of Head-to-Head movement in Modern English.

(iii) For the two (2) types of Head-to-Head movement that you named in (ii), give one (1) Modern English example in which the first type applies, but not the second type.

(iv) For the two (2) types of Head-to-Head movement that you named in (ii), give one (1) Modern English example in which the second type applies, but not the first type.

(v) Use X-bar theoretic phrase-structure trees to illustrate the two (2) types of Head-to-Head movement that you named in (ii).

[25 marks]

Question 2

(i) Why is X-bar theory considered to be an improvement over previous theories of phrase-structure?

(ii) What is the X-bar schema?

(iii) What is the theoretical purpose of the X-bar schema?

(iv) Choose three lexical word categories. Use the X-bar schema to show how phrases headed by each of these lexical word categories has a structure that is parallel to the structure of the other two.

[25 marks]
Question 3

(i) Choose three (3) of the following terms. For each one of the terms that you choose, give a definition and one (1) example from any language except Modern English.

   a) IP
   b) AdjP
   c) CP
   d) AdvP

(ii) Show where each one of the terms in (i) may appear in an X-bar theoretic phrase-structure tree.

[25 marks]
SECTION B

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 4

(i) Define the Verb-Second construction.

(ii) Give two (2) examples of the Verb-Second construction from two (2) languages of your choice.

(iii) For one (1) of the examples you gave in (ii), show how it is derived using an X-bar theoretic phrase-structure tree.

(iv) Give two (2) functions which Verb-Second constructions are used for in human languages. For each function that you give, name one (1) language that uses a Verb-Second construction for this function.

(v) Why are Verb-Second constructions analyzed as instances of movement in generative syntax? 

[25 marks]

Question 5

(i) Name and define three (3) types of predicate-argument structure.

(ii) Give two (2) examples of each type of predicate-argument structure that you named in (i) from any language or languages of your choice, except Modern English.

[25 marks]

Question 6

(i) Give one (1) example of a constituent question with an embedded clause in Modern English.

(ii) Draw a complete X-bar theoretic phrase-structure tree for the sentence you gave in (i). Identify each instance of movement and indicate where it occurs in the tree.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER