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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

RESIT EXAMINATION PAPER: JULY 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) What are the two (2) basic claims of X-bar theory?
- (ii) How are the two (2) claims that you gave in (i) expressed by the X-bar schema?
- (iii) Give five (5) categories that may be the heads of X-bar theoretic phrases.
- (iv) For three (3) of the five (5) categories you gave in (iii), state what may appear in the specifier and complement positions of their X-bar theoretic phrases in any language.

[25 marks]

Question 2

Define each one of the following terms. For each one of the terms, give one (1) example from any language except Modern English.

- a) specifier
- b) head
- c) embedded clause
- d) yes-no question
- e) I

[25 marks]

Question 3

- (i) Give one (1) example of a sentence with a transitive verb from any language except Modern English.
- (ii) Give one (1) example of a sentence with an intransitive verb from any language except Modern English.
- (iii) Define the concept of predicate-argument structure.
- (iv) Give one (1) example of a predicate-argument structure from each sentence that you gave in (i) and (ii) define all of their thematic roles

[25 marks]

SECTION B

Choose two (2) questions from this section.

Question 4

(i) Give two (2) examples of an NP and two (2) examples of a VP which share common predicates that illustrate the structural parallels between NP and VP from any language except Modern English.

(ii) Use X-bar theoretic phrase-structure trees of the NP and the VP that you gave in (i) to show the parallelisms that you gave in (i).

(iii) Identify the predicate-argument structure of the predicates of each one of the examples you gave in (i). Show how these predicate-argument structures are associated with the phrase-structures of each of the trees that you gave in (ii).

[25 marks]

Question 5

Consider the following sentence (a)

(a) What did the bureaucrat in the office say that the official saw?

(i) Draw a complete X-bar theoretic phrase-structure tree for this sentence. Identify and indicate each instance of movement.

[25 marks]

Question 6

Define each one of the following terms. Give one (1) example of each term from a language or languages of your choice, except Modern English.

- 1) verb-second
- 2) subject-verb inversion
- 3) discontinuous dependency
- 4) Free Inversion
- 5) Yes-no Questions

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTION PAPER