
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2004/2005

March 2005

HXE 302 – Linguistics II (Syntax and Semantics of English)

Duration : 3 hours

Please check that this paper consists of **THREE** pages of printed material before you begin the examination.

This paper is divided into two sections. Answer **ALL** questions from **Section A** and any **TWO** questions from **Section B**.

Section A

1. EITHER

- [a] Discuss why syntagmatic and paradigmatic evidence are insufficient to account for the formation of a well-formed sentence.

OR

- [b] Critically evaluate the use of transformational grammar in the teaching and learning of English.

[25 marks]

2. Answer all the questions below.

- [a] State and illustrate the PS rule for coordinated structures.

[4 marks]

- [b] Using X – bar rules, draw a tree diagram of the two sentences below.

[i] *The tragedy was really terrifying.*

[ii] *He is terrifying the poor child.*

[8 marks]

- [c] Transformations of sentences involve a number of constraints. Give an example of a sentence which shows violation of:

[i] subject constraint

[ii] coordinate structure constraint

[4 marks]

- [d] Draw a tree diagram based on PS rules for the newspaper headlines below.

Open burning in Sumatra a factor

Wenger gets the chill

[6 marks]

- [e] Apart from AdvPs, what phrase can serve as modifiers of V? Exemplify.

[3 marks]

...3/-

Section B

3. Explain what you understand by the difference between *sense* and *reference* and describe the relevance of this distinction for the language teaching classroom.

[25 marks]

4. Language users can be highly inexplicit in their utterances – very often what they literally say is not what they actually mean.

Discuss ways in which speaker meaning can be implicit and suggest reasons why language users might communicate in such a manner.

[25 marks]

5. Describe at least three semantic relations on how words are paradigmatically related to each other and what do these say about the mental organization of our vocabulary.

[25 marks]