
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2006/2007

April 2007

HXE 302 – LINGUISTICS 2
(SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS OF ENGLISH)

Duration : 3 hours

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

This paper contains two sections. Answer ALL questions in Section A and any TWO questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer ALL questions.

1. A well-formed sentence is a combination of words formed according to a pre-set pattern. Discuss.

[25 marks]

2. [a] Draw a tree diagram for the following sentence based on X-bar theory.

That sweet little girl might become quite fond of Sam.

[5 marks]

- [b] Draw a tree diagram for the following sentence based on contemporary phrase structure grammar.

The audience wondered whether Farah would win the contest.

[5 marks]

- [c] Give the deep structure and surface structure for the following sentence.

Should the students return the books today?

[10 marks]

- [d] From the perspective of transformational grammar, why is the following surface structure ungrammatical?

What could the book about excite the readers?

[5 marks]

Section B

Answer any TWO questions.

3. What do you understand by the difference between sense, denotation and reference and describe the relevance of this distinction for the language teaching classroom?

[25 marks]

4. [a] Explain how polysemy can be distinguished from homonymy.
- [b] Discuss, with examples, how homonyms and polysemous words can lead to ambiguity.

[25 marks]

5. What are performative utterances? With appropriate examples, discuss how this type of utterance differs from other types of utterances.

[25 marks]