

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

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

Masa : 3 jam

THIS EXAMINATION PAPER CONTAINS SIX [6] QUESTIONS IN TWO [2] PAGES.

Answer any **TWO [2]** questions from **Section A** and any **TWO [2]** questions from **Section B**.

Section A

1. Discuss any **five** semantic relations between words with appropriate examples.
[25 marks]

2. [a] What is ambiguity?
[b] Consider the ambiguous sentences provided below, then in each case account for their meanings.
 - [i] Competent women and men hold all the good jobs at Harvard.
 - [ii] Mindy likes Cindy better than Jonathan.
 - [iii] John hit the boy with a book.
 - [iv] Every student thinks that she is a genius.
 - [v] Visiting relatives can be tedious.
 - [vi] They don't smoke and drink.
 - [vii] Students hate annoying professors.

[viii] Sue adores men who love women who don't smoke.

[ix] She visited a small girls' school.

[x] Happily they left.

[25 marks]

3. What do you understand by Speech Act? With appropriate examples, distinguish between locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary forces in a Speech Act.

[25 marks]

Section B

4. There exists no one to one relationship between function and form in language. Discuss.

[25 marks]

5. In many textbooks on English syntax it is assumed that VP only contains verbs. Present distributional arguments in favour or against this assumption.

[25 marks]

6. [a] Explain two syntactic evidence which can verify the existence of X-bar categories.

- [b] Draw trees for the following sentences in accordance with X-bar theory.

[i] The books about politics will probably shock the public.

[ii] The blonde teacher punished the children severely.

[25 marks]