
UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Second Semester Examination
Academic Session 2007/2008

April 2008

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

Duration : 3 hours

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

Answer THREE questions. Answer ONE question from each section.

Section A

1. Answer all [a], [b], [c] and [d].

[a] Define complement options and then with examples identify five complement options for nouns.
[25 marks]

[b] Define X' level. Then draw a tree diagram using X bar theory for the sentence below.

The young boy hastily ran straight to the shop

[25 marks]

[c] What is the function of a Complementizer? Provide a sentence containing two Complementizers and draw a tree diagram using XP rule for that sentence.
[25 marks]

[d] What transformation rules have been used in the formation of the sentence below? Give the deep and surface structure for the following sentence.

What must the students do now?

[25 marks]

2. Explain syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations. Then discuss why syntagmatic evidence and paradigmatic evidence are insufficient to account for a well-formed sentence.

[100 marks]

Section B

3. Answer both [a] and [b].

[a] Discuss, with appropriate examples, the various models or theories of word meaning in language.

[b] Analyse the following sentences and provide the meaning of the underlined word.

[i] I did not mean to hurt you.

[ii] He never says what he means.

[iii] She never means what she says.

[iv] Life without faith has no meaning.

[v] What is the meaning of carnivorous?

[100 marks]

4. Answer all [a], [b] and [c].

[a] What is ambiguity?

[b] What are the sources of ambiguity?

[c] Analyse the following phrases/sentences and explain why they are ambiguous.

[i] John decided on the boat.

[ii] She cannot bear children.

[iii] Kicking baby considered healthy.

[iv] He bought small cakes and doughnuts.

[v] The retired priest may marry Springsteen.

[100 marks]

Section C

5. Answer both [a] and [b].

[a] Discuss, with examples, Searle's classification of speech acts.

[b] Explain how a speech act can be both direct and indirect.

[100 marks]

6. A speaker's intended meaning can be understood by drawing upon presuppositions and implicatures. Discuss, with examples.

[100 marks]