Scott Christian UNIVERSITY

A Dynamic Centre of Academic Excellence

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

ENG 210: INTRODUCTION TO MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX

INSTRUCTIONS

Answers question **one** and **two** other questions.

QUESTION 1 - COMULSORY (30 mks)

1. a) Identify the morphemes and their meanings in the data below. (14 mks)

Pushed missing artists uncomfortable swam display

b) i) State the allomorphs of the English past tense. (6 mks)

ii) Explain the conditioning environment of each allomorph. (10 mks)

QUESTION 2 (15 mks)

a) Explain the term "inflectional morphemes" (6 mks)

b) Explain the types of inflectional morphemes that occur in English using adequate examples. (9 mks)

QUESTION 3 (15 mks)

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The crowd in genera" more pleased with the bull even than the 'peanut vendor, started to cheer. Newcomers gracefully jumped up on to the fences, to appear standing there, marvellously balanced, on top of the railings. Muscular hawkers lifted aloft, in one sinewy stretch of the forearm, heavy trays brimmed with multi-coloured fruits.

(a) Identify two compound words, and name the grammatical category of each compound as well as the grammatical categories of the elements that compose it. (Example: blackboard is a noun made up of an adjective black and a noun board.) [6 marks]

(b) In each of the words given below, do the following:

• identify the class-changing derivational suffixes

• name the grammatical categories of the base forms to which the suffixes are attached.
• Name the grammatical category of the derived word.

(i) Marvellously (3 mks)
(ii) Gracefully (3 mks)

(c) Explain the word-formation process that links the noun hawker and the verb hawk. (3 mks)

QUESTION 4 (15 mks)

(a) In a syntactic structure, words have two roles: the role of a head and the role of a modifier. Describe these roles, illustrating your answer using examples. (6 mks)

(b) Draw tree diagrams to represent the following sentence structure. (9 mks)

i. The girl is happy
ii. The children are in the field
iii. The beautiful girl cooked the food

QUESTION 5 (15 mks)

Define the morphological and syntactic terms below. Give examples to illustrate your answer.

(a) Phrase structure (3 mks)
(b) Clause element (3 mks)
(c) Dependent and independent clauses (3 mks)
(d) Morpheme (3 mks)
(e) Allomorph (3 mks)
(f) Root morpheme (3 mks)

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Course description

ENG 210: INTRODUCTION TO MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX (42 Contact Hrs; 3 Credit Hrs)

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to equip the student with knowledge to analyse sentences, morphology and syntax.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student will be able to:
1. demonstrate understanding of the distinction between morphology and syntax and their place in linguistic analysis;
2. differentiate between the word, lexeme, and word form;
3. outline word formation process in detail;
4. illustrate sentence analysis.

Course Content

Schools of linguistics: focus on the structural approach to linguistic analysis of English and other languages. Structural units in English language: morphs, morphemes, allomorphs. The notions word, phrase, clause and sentence. Syntagmatic and paradigmatic relations in syntax. Sequence and dependency relations. Phrase structure analysis in sentences.

Main subtopics

1. Definition of structural units in linguistics
    - Morphology
    - Word
    - Morpheme
    - Morph
    - allomorph

2. Morphology & types
    - Free & bound morphemes
    - Tree diagrams
3. Syntax
    - Definition
    - Phrasal categories
    - Types of syntax
    - Syntactic patterns

4. Levels of syntactic structure
    - Phrase structure analysis

5. Clause & sentence
    - Types of clauses
    - Sentence structure types
    - Sentence analysis

6. Word formation process
    - Types of word formation & their contribution to linguistics

Required Texts

1. Brown, E.K. & J. E Miller. (1983). Syntax: A Linguistic introduction to Sentence structure. Cambridge, CUP.
2. Fromkin, V. and Rodman R. (1996). An Introduction to Language. (4 th Edition) New York: CBS.

Further Readings

1. Huddleston R. (1976). An introduction to English transformational syntax. London, Longman.
2. Katamba, F. (1993). Morphology. London, Macmillan
3. Yule, G. (1985). The Study of Language. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Journals

- Journal of English for Academic Purposes- ISSN: 1475-1585
- English Today-The International Review of the English Language