



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

A. M. E. C. E. A

LANGATA CAMPUS

MAIN EXAMINATION

JANUARY – APRIL 2015 TRIMESTER

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ALT 502: THEORETICAL LINGUISTICS

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| Date: April 2015 | Duration: 2 Hours |
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| Instructions: Answer ONE Question from each section |
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SECTION A

- Q1. Choose any Two of the theories listed below and explain how each of the chosen theories proposes to analyze language data. Provide clear examples from a language of your choice.
- b) Transformational Generative Grammar. (Aspects Model)
 - c) Generative Phonology
 - d) Lexical morphology

-(15 marks)

SECTION B: Phonology

- Q2. Provide phonological analysis as explained in each case below:
- a) Using distinctive features, describe the sounds in the English word 'pang'
(3 marks)
 - b) Analyse the structure of the syllable(s) in the English word: 'Scrubs'
(3 marks)
 - c) Study the Japanese data below and;
 - i) Comment on the phonotactics in the language.
(2 marks)
 - ii) Identify and explain one phonological process evident in this data.
(3 marks)
 - iii) Formulate a phonological rule that captures the alternations identified in (ii) above.
(2 marks)
 - iv) What is the base form of the progressive/continuous morpheme?
(1 mark)

- v) If 'konde' mean 'trying' what are the possible underlying forms with the meaning 'try'?

(1 mark)

- Q3. Using either phonetic features, distinctive features, or tree diagrams (as in appropriate) provide a detailed description of the categories into which the phonological units in each of the following fall.
- a) Syllables **(3 Marks)**
 - b) Vowels **(4 Marks)**
 - c) Consonants **(6 Marks)**
 - d) Tones **(2 Marks)**

SECTION C: Morphology

- Q4. Giving adequate and relevant examples, discuss the bases for distinguishing between 'neutral' and 'non-neutral' affixes, and outline both the advantages and the limitations of this distinction.

(15 marks)

- Q5. "The phenomenon handled by a morphological component of grammar can adequately be accounted for by the phonological and the syntactic components." Evaluate the accuracy of this statement in capturing the concerns of a morphological component of a language.

(15 marks)

SECTION D: Syntax

- Q6. Giving clear examples, trace the changing nature of transformational rules from the *Syntactic Structures* model to the *Extended Standard Theory*.

(15 marks)

- Q7. Choose one of the two approaches in Functional Grammar, and describe how it departs from the description proposed by the Transformational Generative approach.

(15 marks)

END