



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2014/2015
INSTITUTIONAL BASED PROGRAMMES (IBP) APRIL 2015 SESSION
EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS
AEN 800: DESCRIPTION OF LINGUISTIC FORM

DATE: Wednesday, 26th August 2015

TIME: 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer Question One and any two other questions.

1. (a) Explain the relationship between syntax and semantics in sentence interpretation. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain and illustrate why morphology is considered the study of internal structure of words. (10 marks)
- (c) Describe the major tenets of Chomsky and Halle's distinctive feature system of phonological analysis. (10 marks)
2. (a) Discuss how any five elements of context determine the over all meaning of an utterance. (10 marks)
- (b) Explain how each of the following aids the construction and interpretation of meaning. (10 marks)
 - (i) Presuppositions
 - (ii) Implicatures
 - (iii) Inference
3. Trace the development and major propositions of the transformational approach to syntactic description as proposed by Noam Chomsky. (20 marks)
4. (a) Distinguish the following terms as used in morphology giving an example for each. (10 marks)
 - (i) Word and lexeme
 - (ii) Base and root
 - (iii) Morph and allomorph
 - (iv) Inflection and derivation

- (b) Explain how the notion of conditioning environment gives rise to morphemic and phonetic variants. (10 marks)
4. Use five parameters to explain why linguistic study and analysis is considered a scientific exercise. (20 marks)