



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

(KERICHO CAMPUS)

INSTITUTIONAL BASED PROGRAMME (IBP) DECEMBER 2015 SESSION
EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH AND
LINGUISTICS
AEN 821: SYNTAX

DATE: Thursday, 28th April 2016

TIME: 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question ONE and ANY OTHER TWO.

- Q1. (i) Disambiguate the following in a government and binding (GB) framework:
- (a) He gave me a book and Mary a pen. (3 marks)
 - (b) Visiting relatives can be a nuisance. (3 marks)
 - (c) Many old men and women cried. (3 marks)
- (ii) Explain and illustrate the role of the following components of X-bar syntactic description:
- (a) head (2 marks)
 - (b) Specifier (SPEC) (2 marks)
 - (c) Complementizer (CP) (2 marks)
 - (d) Maximal projection (2 marks)
- (iii) Draw phrase markers for the following sentences in a minimalist framework:
- (a) Peter wants to sing. (4 marks)
 - (b) We would think that the boy is sick. (5 marks)
 - (c) What do you think about it? (4 marks)
- Q2. With examples from any languages of your choice, review the following tenets of government and binding (GB) syntax:
- (a) Constraints on movement (4 marks)

- (b) The theta criterion (4 marks)
- (c) The Empty Category Principle (E.C.P.) (4 marks)
- (d) The case filter (4 marks)
- (e) Governing category (4 marks)

Q3. Describe the operation of the following economy principles of the minimalist program:

- (a) Least effort (5 marks)
- (b) Last resort (5 marks)
- (c) Shortest move (5 marks)
- (d) Greed and procrastinate (5 marks)

Q4. Illustrate the following transformations in an X-bar syntax framework:

- (a) Relativization (7 marks)
- (b) Passivization (7 marks)
- (c) Topicalization (6 marks)

Q5. Explain how Chomsky's approach to transformational syntax has advanced our understanding of the internal structure of clauses. (20 marks)