

Mount Kenya



University

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION 2014/2015

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGES

BACHELOR EDUCATION
REGULAR

UNIT CODE: BLA4115

UNIT TITLE: ADVANCED
THEORETICAL STUDIES IN GRAMMAR

DATE: AUGUST 2015

MAIN EXAM

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTIONS ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO.

1. a) Explain why linguistics is considered as the scientific study of language. (4 Marks)
 - b) Differentiate between the following concepts as used in grammar. Illustrate your answer.
 - i. Functional and formal grammar. (5 Marks)
 - ii. Synchronic and diachronic. (4 Marks)
 - iii. Structuralism and traditional grammar. (4 Marks)
 - c) Write re-write rules for the sentences below. (6 Marks)
 - i. The girl must have cried yesterday.
 - ii. The ~~act~~ ^{cat} might have been killing the mouse.
 - iii. The very tall lady smiled broadly.
 - d) With aid of phrase markers disambiguate the sentence; They killed the man with a gun. (4 Marks)
 - e) Describe any three criteria used to define a word. (3 Marks)
2. Critically examine the strengths and weaknesses of traditional grammar. (20 Marks)

3. a) Discuss five properties of human language. (10 Marks)
- b) Describe five word formation processes. (10 Marks)
4. Discuss the contributions of the following scholars in grammar.
- a) Noam Chomsky (T.G.G) (4 Marks)
- b) Dionysius Thrax (Traditional grammar) (4 Marks)
- c) Ferdinand De Saussure (structuralism) (12 Marks)
5. Analyse the sentences below in the perspective of; (20 Marks)
- i. Clause as message.
- ii. Clause as exchange.
- iii. Clause as representation.
- a) Into the pool, the man fell.
- b) Did the teachers go on strike last year?
- c) They find the smart phone beautiful.
- d) The teacher taught the students very well.