



**MASENO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014**

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEGREE  
OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS  
(MAIN CAMPUS)**

**ALN 802: RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN GRAMMATICAL  
THEORY**

*Date: 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2013*

*Time: 9.00 - 12noon*

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer QUESTION ONE and any other TWO questions.

#### ALN 802 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GRAMMATICAL THEORY

1. With relevant examples, explain the theoretical concepts which Transformational Generative Grammar introduces into syntactic theory.
2. Explain what X-bar theory entails and show how it is a solution to the shortcomings of the PSG model of grammar.
3. State the theta criterion and show how it regulates argument structure.
4. State the three principles of the Binding Theory and illustrate how they account for the distribution of DPs in constructions.
5. With illustrations, explain how the concepts of Least Effort, Last Resort and Greed of the Minimalist Programme apply in the analysis of linguistic phenomena.