



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

**FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS) WITH  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(CITY CAMPUS)**

**AEN 404: ADVANCES IN THE DESCRIPTION OF  
ENGLISH SYNTAX**

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

*Time: 9.00 – 11.00am*

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Attempt QUESTION ONE and any other TWO questions.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. There are **FIVE** questions in this paper
2. Answer question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions

Q1(a) Outline the major concerns of syntax as a branch of linguistics (10 marks)

(b) Account for the major tenets of American Structuralism (20 marks)

Q2. With the aid of tree diagrams, discuss the concept of ambiguity in the following sentences

- (i) Flying planes can be dangerous (5 marks)
- (ii) Old men and women (5 marks)
- (iii) Paul went to the bank (5 marks)
- (iv) A man saw a woman with a telescope (5 marks)

Q3. Using suitable examples, outline the main components of the Phrase Structure grammar (10 marks)

(b) Discuss the levels of grammatical adequacy as advanced by Noam Chomsky (10 marks)

Q4 (a). With the aid of tree diagrams, illustrate the transformations governing the production of the following sentences

- (i) Sarah was hit by a car (4 marks)
- (ii) Go! (4 marks)
- (iii) Sam hit himself (4 marks)
- (iv) Where are you going today? (4 marks)

(b) Using illustrations from the English language, explain the concept of selectional restrictions (4 marks)

Q5. Define the following terms within the Government and binding theory using **TWO** examples from the English language

(i) Anaphor (5 marks)

(ii) Pronominal

(iii) Governing category

(iv) R-expression

(5 marks)

(5 marks)

(5 marks)