



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA,
PLOT 91, CADASTRAL ZONE, JABI, ABUJA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES
2020_1 EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG421
COURSE TITLE: NEW TRENDS IN SYNTAX
CREDIT UNITS: THREE
TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTION: Answer Any **3** Questions (*Your correct use of language elements will earn you additional **1 mark***)

1. (a) Describe the process of the Spell Out stage in the Minimalist Program (13 marks)
(b) Discuss any five of these linguistic operations in the MP
 - i. Operation select
 - ii. Operation agree
 - iii. Operation copy
 - iv. Operation move
 - v. Operation merge
 - vi. Operation delete (10 marks)

(23 marks/40 minutes)
2. (a) Why do you think the linguistic element, Shortest Move, is considered as an economy of derivation principle in the Minimalist Program. (13 marks)
(b) Which of the elements of the Principle and Parameters Theories is it meant to be improved upon? (10 marks)

(23 marks/40 minutes)
3. (a) What do you understand by phrasal categories in the Minimalist Program? (8 marks)
(b) Define five phrasal categories that you know in the Minimalist Program. (10 marks)
(c) Write out each of the phrasal categories clearly showing the format of presentation. (5 marks)

(23 marks/40 minutes)
4. (a) Analyse the following sentences using the BPS structure.
 - (i) Slap Mohammed (3 marks)
 - (ii) Slow coach (3 marks)
 - (iii) Go to your class (3 marks)
 - (iv) Charles ate eba (2 marks)
 - (v) She won't dance (2 marks)

(b) Analyse these structures with tree diagrams, using the DP phrase markers:
 - (i) The Registrar (2 marks)
 - (ii) The girls (2 marks)

- (iii) My dad (2 marks)
- (iv) The ladies of the night (2 marks)
- (v) Her company (2 marks)

(23 marks/40 minutes)