



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA,
PLOT 91, CADASTRAL ZONE, JABI, ABUJA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES
2021_2 EXAMINATION⁴⁵⁶⁷

COURSE CODE: ENG421

COURSE TITLE: NEW TRENDS IN SYNTAX

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTION: Answer Any **4** Questions (*Your correct use of language elements will earn you additional **2½ marks** for each question attempted.*)

1. a. Explain how the sound and meaning pair works in the derivation process in the Minimalist Program. (10 marks)
b. Relate it to the Spell Out stage in the derivation process. (5 marks)

15 marks

2. Self-interest appears to be the major motivation for greed in the transformation process. Explain with examples how this works.

15 marks

3. a. Compare and contrast the major workings of the Bare Phrase Structure and the X.Bar Theory. (8 marks)
b. Using the Operation Merge as a pivot, explain how the head category is identified and leads the transformation process in BPS. (7 marks)

15 marks

4. Identify and discuss the three main features that drive the transformation process in the Minimalist Program in terms of feature driven movements. 5 marks for each type of feature identified and discussed.

15 marks

5. a. What constitute a **DP** in the Minimalist Program? (3 marks)
b. Use the simple tree diagram to describe the DP of **two** bare nouns. (6 marks)
c. Use the tree diagram to describe at least **two** complex DP. (6 marks)

TOTAL: 15 marks