SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION
Honour School of Modern Languages
Honour School of Psychology, Philosophy & Linguistics

XII / Linguistics B2
SPECIAL SUBJECT
SYNTAX

TRINITY TERM 2019
Friday, 7 June, 09.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Candidates must answer THREE questions.

Candidates must write the exact title and the number of their Special Subject in the space provided for this purpose in the answer-book. The number may be found at the top left hand corner of this page.

Candidates must avoid substantial overlap between their answers in terms of content.

Do not turn over until told that you may do so.
1. Consider the following sentence from Makhuwa, a Bantu language spoken in Tanzania and Mozambique.

\[
\text{Araarima} \quad \text{aho-ruw-el-a} \quad \text{mwaana} \quad \text{isima.}
\]

Araarima SUBJAGR-OBJAGR-prepare-APPL-PAST child porridge

'Araarima prepared porridge for the child.'

All possible orders of words in this sentence are acceptable, and all convey the same basic meaning. What issues does this raise for syntactic theory?

2. Discuss constraints on long-distance dependencies in English as illustrated by the following contrast:
   
   a. The man who rescued the child received a reward.
   b. *Which child did the man who rescued receive a reward?

3. What is the binary branching constraint? Discuss and evaluate the arguments that have been presented in favour of this constraint.

4. Discuss constraints on the distribution of the English reflexive pronoun “himself” by reference to the following examples:
   
   a. Fred saw himself in the mirror.
   b. Fred compared George to himself.
   c. *Fred thought that Jenny saw himself in the mirror.
   d. *Fred wanted Jenny to like himself.

5. Draw a constituent structure tree for the following Indonesian sentence. What additional data would you like to have in order to be sure that you have drawn the correct tree?

\[
\text{Ali membeli ayam itu untuk perempuanyang mengirim surat itu}
\text{Ali bought chicken DET for woman who sent letter DET}
\text{kepada Hasan.}
\text{to Hasan}
\]

‘Ali bought the chicken for the woman who sent the letter to Hasan.’

6. What constitutes good data in linguistics?

7. Explain the contrast in grammaticality in these two sentences:
   
   a. Peter expected there to be a meeting.
   b. *Peter asked there to be a meeting.

8. Discuss some syntactic issues that arise in the analysis of the following example:

\[
\text{I send birthday cards to the woman that once taught me French.}
\]

9. Languages differ with respect to the patterns of morphosyntactic alignment that they display. Discuss and exemplify AT LEAST TWO different types of morphosyntactic alignment patterns.

10. ‘The distinction between arguments and adjuncts is fundamental to most linguistic theories, yet the distinction is not always clear’ [NEEDHAM AND TOIVONEN]. Discuss.

11. Discuss the contribution of Keenan and Comrie’s work on the Accessibility Hierarchy to the analysis of syntax.

12. Describe and critically evaluate how the relationship between grammatical functions and syntactic positions is treated in a linguistic theory of your choice.