

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO – SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF ARTS
SECOND YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS – SEMESTER I – 2018/2019
ESL 2112 – The Structure of English Grammar
Time: Two (02) Hours

Answer any four (04) questions.

1. Answer this question using your knowledge of **clause structure, complements and adjuncts**.

- i. Using the **licensing criterion**, determine whether the underlined expressions are **complements** or **adjuncts** to their heads. You are required to use test sentences to support your conclusion. (10 marks)

- (a) He quickly danced to the stage.
(b) I don't mind seeing this movie two times.
(c) My uncle urged me to start a company.
(d) Renuka questioned why Shanaka left the party suddenly.

- ii. Determine whether the underlined expressions below are **direct objects** or **predicative complements**. Give syntactic evidence in support of your answers. You can use tests such as **adjective phrase replacement, passivization, bare role NP, nominative pronoun replacement**.

One (01) argument/test for each item is sufficient. (10 marks)

- (a) The new member became president of the club.
(b) The opposition justified the new proposal.
(c) The recent underworld activities look a threat to society.
(d) I believed what Ramesh told me.

- iii. Identify the **subjects** in the following sentences and decide on the **thematic roles** played by them. (5 marks)

- (a) The project was initiated by the Ministry of Trade.
(b) The patient suffered severe pain after the surgery.
(c) I received permission to build an extension to my house.
(d) The bronze statue lies in the middle of the large room.

2. Answer this question using your knowledge of **prepositions** and **preposition phrases**.

i. Identify particles and prepositions in the following sentences and give one syntactic evidence in support of the distinction you make between them in each instance. The particles and prepositions are underlined for you. For example:

The word over is a **particle** in *Please check over your writing for mistakes*, while it is a **preposition** in *The government built bridges over five rivers this year*.

(5 marks)

(a) I added up the receipts and they totalled Rs. 50,000/-.

(b) The committee approved of the new suggestions.

(c) You need to account for the differences in the two reports.

(d) A lorry ran over two children yesterday.

ii. Classify the following words as **adverbs** or **prepositions** basing your classification on tests such as **modification of nouns** (dependency on nouns) and **complementation of the verb be** (predicative complements). You need to show your test sentences. Use **both** tests for each word. (12 marks)

(a) outdoors

(c) overseas

(b) again

(d) often

iii. The words given below belong to the categories of **adjectives** and **prepositions**. Using the **predicand** requirement argument, show the distinction between these two categories. (8 marks)

(a) fearful

(c) instead

(b) before

(d) suspicious

3. Answer this question using your knowledge of **relative clauses**.

i. All the following sentences contain a finite subordinate clause. Underline those that are **relative**, and in each of them identify the **antecedent** and the **function** of the (overt or covert) **relativised element** (R element). If a clause is not relative, say which type the clause belongs to. (5 marks)

(a) *The man of the match title was awarded to the player who batted last.*

(b) *The students couldn't find the book the lecturer recommended.*

(c) *I can't remember which bank he works in.*

(d) *The committee members didn't like what the president proposed.*

- ii. In the following sentences, identify the finite subordinate clauses by underlining and labelling them as (a) **relative clauses** (b) **declarative content clauses** and (c) **ambiguous**. Give reasons for your choice. (10 marks)

- (a) *The claim that it was an accident seems highly implausible.*
- (b) *They rejected the idea that we had advanced.*
- (c) *They are spreading a gossip that is causing her discomfort.*
- (d) *Kumar has banked the money that I gave him.*

- iii. The following are **integrated** or **supplementary relative** clauses, but without the usual internal punctuation. Identify the relative clauses by underlining them, and for each say whether it could be interpreted in **either way** or in **only one way**. In each case, you need to support your conclusion with the corresponding meaning and punctuation. (10 marks)

- (a) *We are planning to go to Brunei which is in the Far East.*
- (b) *The proposal which the opposition made is practicable.*
- (c) *The monthly income he gets from his pension is insufficient.*
- (d) *The principal is questioning the students of the class who saw the stranger near their classroom.*

4. Answer this question using your knowledge of **verbs, tense, aspect and mood**.

- i. Determine whether the following sentences allow a **perfective interpretation** or an **imperfective interpretation**. Give reasons for all your answers. (10 marks)

- (a) *She spent her last vacation in Paris.*
- (b) *John was in Berlin.*
- (c) *I promise to be back before lunch.*
- (d) *The baby woke up with a smile on her face.*
- (e) *She is walking towards the school.*

- ii. Classify the following conditional constructions as **open** or **remote**. (4 marks)

- (a) *He could easily complete the task if he tried.*
- (b) *You can request an extension if you are stuck.*
- (c) *If she cleans the room, we can put the furniture in it.*
- (d) *If I had money, I would give you.*

- iii. Describe the difference in **meaning** between the [a] and [b] parts of the following pairs of sentences. (5 marks)

(1) a. *He has been in prison for 10 years.*

b. *He was in prison for 10 years.*

(2) a. *She has put on some weight.*

b. *She put on some weight.*

- iv. Identify the modality of the following sentences as **epistemic**, **deontic**, or **dynamic**. If the modality of a sentence is ambiguous, mention that and give reasons for the ambiguity. (6 marks)

(a) *It must surely be difficult to find a good apartment.*

(b) *We should go there tomorrow.*

(c) *You can drive.*

5. Answer this question using your knowledge of **clause types**, **subordination** and **content clauses**.

- i. Classify the following according to **clause type**, and state the **speech act** they would most likely be used to perform. (5 marks)

(a) *I advise you to make an appeal.*

(b) *I advised him to make an appeal.*

(c) *You are coming tomorrow?*

(d) *Can you please close the door?*

(e) *Have a wonderful birthday!*

- ii. Attach the proper **reverse polarity tags** to the following declaratives. (4 marks)

(a) *Amani does not smoke.*

(b) *Everyone thought it was impossible.*

(c) *You used to drive to work.*

(d) *There is no hope.*

- iii. The following clauses are written without a final punctuation mark. Classify them as (a) an **open interrogative**; (b) an **exclamative**; or (c) **ambiguous** between open interrogative and exclamative. If your answer is (a) or (b), explain what grammatical factors make the clause unambiguous. If your answer is (c), comment on the difference in meaning. (10 marks)

(a) *What a disappointment it was*

(b) *What the hell are you doing*

- (c) *How much is this bag*
- (d) *What idiot devised this plan*
- (e) *What car is that*

iv. Classify the following subordinate clauses (underlined) as **finite** or **non-finite**. Give reasons for your answers. (6 marks)

- (a) *We requested them not to interfere with our work.*
- (b) *It is important that she bring her own notes.*
- (c) *How she managed to escape is still a mystery.*
- (d) *We know you like her.*

6. Answer this question using your knowledge of **subordination** and **content clauses**.

i. Embed the clause within brackets as a **subordinate clause** in the following clauses. (6 marks)

- (a) *I am still wondering (Why did she decline the offer?)*
- (b) *It was obvious (The constitution needs to be revised.)*
- (c) *He told me (What a disaster it was)*
- (d) *I am not sure (Can we trust that person?)*

ii. Identify the **clause type** and **function** of the underlined subordinate clauses. (6 marks)

- (a) *Tell me what you want.*
- (b) *That you are a genuine person is a well-known fact.*
- (c) *I know how terrible it is.*
- (d) *They know you are interested.*

iii. For each of the lexemes below, say whether or not it can license the following types of content clause complements: (a) **mandative**; (b) **closed interrogative**; (c) **open interrogative**; (d) **exclamative**. (You may need to test them with both a negative matrix clause and a positive matrix clause.) Give an example to support each 'yes' answer. (8 marks)

- (a) *insist* (b) *ask* (c) *know* (d) *realise*

iv. Which of the following **prepositions** license a **declarative content clause** as **complement**? For each 'yes' answer give an example, and say whether or not the subordinator *that* is permitted in the content clause. (5 marks)

- (a) *in order* (b) *as* (c) *because* (d) *by* (e) *during*