

LAIKIPIA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATION FOR THE MASTERS OF ARTS DEGREE IN APPLIED LINGUISTICS

LING 812: STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION OF MODERN ENGLISH

STREAM: R

TIME:2 HRS

DAY: WEDNESDAY (8.30-11.30AM)

DATE:04/02/2026

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE (3 PAGES)

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INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question ONE and any other TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE COMPULSORY - (30 MARKS)

- a) Define the study of linguistics and its subparts. **(3 marks)**
- b) Describe the concept of structure in Modern Grammar. **(5 marks)**
- c) Explain the simple, compound and complex sentence giving an example of each. **(5 marks)**
- d) With examples highlight the various grammatical forms that can appear with noun phrases in English. **(5 marks)**
- e) Differentiate between iconic, indexical, and symbolic signs; **(3 marks)**
- f) Distinguish between different senses of the word *grammar*; **(5 marks)**
- g) Using one example differentiate between your understanding of the term surface structure and deep structure (4marks)

QUESTION TWO**15 Marks**

- a) Highlight five different types of relative clauses in English and explain their functions. **(10 marks)**
- b) Apply *there* insertion to:
 - i. A solution is available.
 - ii. A skeleton was in the closet.

QUESTION THREE**15 Marks**

- a) Determine the type of dependency relation (subject–predicate, modifier-head, governor complement) between elements within a constituent sentence. **(10 marks)**
- b) Analyze the structure of noun, adjective, adverb, and prepositional phrase. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Create five pairs of sentences using the particles *up, out, over, and on* **(10 Marks)**
- b) Draw both the DS and SS trees of *The baby-sitter fed the children* and *The children were fed by the baby-sitter.* **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Write five passive sentences, replace them with their active counterparts. **(10 marks)**
- b) Using the sentences in 1 above explain the notion of agent, verb and object in the sentences. **(5 marks)**
- c) Draw the DS and SS trees for the following two bracketed relative clauses: *The book [which you wrote], The man [whom you spoke to].*

Draw tree diagrams of the deep and surface structures of sentences below.

- a. Must you leave?
 - b. Has she left?
 - c. Is she leaving?
2. Identify the DS and SS of:
- i. There is a house in New Orleans.
 - ii. There is a god.
 - iii. There may have been water on Mars.
3. Apply *there* insertion to:
- i. A solution is available.
 - ii. A skeleton was in the closet.

Pilgrims may have been here in the past

Draw the deep and surface structure trees for the sentences in (2) and (3) below.

Describe what the Subject Auxiliary inversion (SAI) transformation does to the DS tree to create the SS tree.

1. Draw the deep structure and surface structure trees for each sentence in 2 below.
2. What PSRs created the DSs?
3. Describe the changes that the topicalization transformation makes to the DS as it changes it into the SS.

- (2) a. Can I have another go?
- b. Have you taken the trash out?
- c. Are you leaving now?
- d. Will you be OK?
- e. Were you hurt in the accident?
- f. Could I have forgotten my keys again?

1. Draw the DS and SS trees for each pair.

2. What condition must be added to the particle movement transformation to correctly account for the following data?

- a. The witness picked Fred out.
- b. The witness picked out Fred.
- c. The witness picked him out.
- d. *The witness picked out him.