

**MA Semester I**

**2021**

**English**

**End Semester Examination**

**Core Course V**

**Introduction to Linguistics & Structure of Modern English**

**Full Marks: 40**

**Time: 2 hours**

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**PLEASE READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU START WRITING:**

- Write the **name of the examination, examination roll number, registration number, course name** and the **total number of pages submitted** in the **front page** of the answer script (in the **template** already provided).
- Leave a **one inch margin** on the **left** and on **top** of each page before starting to write the examination.
- Put **page number** on **top right** of each page.
- Students should write **legibly** their answers preferably on **A4 size sheets**, scan them and send the entire answer script as **one PDF file**.
- The scanned answer scripts should have **enough clarity** to enable evaluation.
- Of the questions attempted, the answers to only the first required number of questions (as instructed in the question paper) will be evaluated. So **please do not attempt extra questions**.
- **Word limit** in questions, wherever specified, should be **strictly adhered to**.
- **No multiple submissions** of answer scripts will be allowed.
- **Avoid** discussion with anyone else; it may **reduce** your marks if **similarities** are found in answers.
- **Plagiarism** related to any **online/offline** source(s) will be **strictly dealt with**.

Answer *any two* of the following (in about **1000 words** each):

**20x2**

**1. (a)** What difficulties are likely to be encountered by linguists while using speech as the primary data for exploring the grammatical rules of a language?

**(b)** Which of the following are linguists likely to believe and why?

**(i)** Changes in grammar result in degradation of language

**(ii)** Grammars should be analogical and logical

**(iii)** Language patterns are less important to a linguist than the substance out of which the patterns are formed

**(iv)** Any language must never be forced into the system of another.

**10+10**

**2. (a)** Does the concept of the morpheme often prove a more helpful analytical tool than the word? Give evidence from what you have learnt in your course to support your view.

**(b)** Below is given a collection of lexemes, prefixes and suffixes. What is the longest word (for each lexeme) you can derive by means of these? What does each of these derived words mean?

*Lexemes*

*Prefixes*

*Suffixes*

HUMID

ir-

-ness

PLACE

dis-

-er

de-

-able

re-

-ify

mis-

-s

pre-

-ful

-ing

(c) *equalizer* and *faithlessness* are English words, but *\*equalize* and *\*faithlessly* are not. Why is this so? 8+(3+3)+(3+3)

3. (a) Here is a list of class of items which may occur as optional constituents in an NP. Which of these classes do the three words ‘few’, ‘much’, and ‘little’ belong to when used in NPs? State at least three reasons behind your choice.

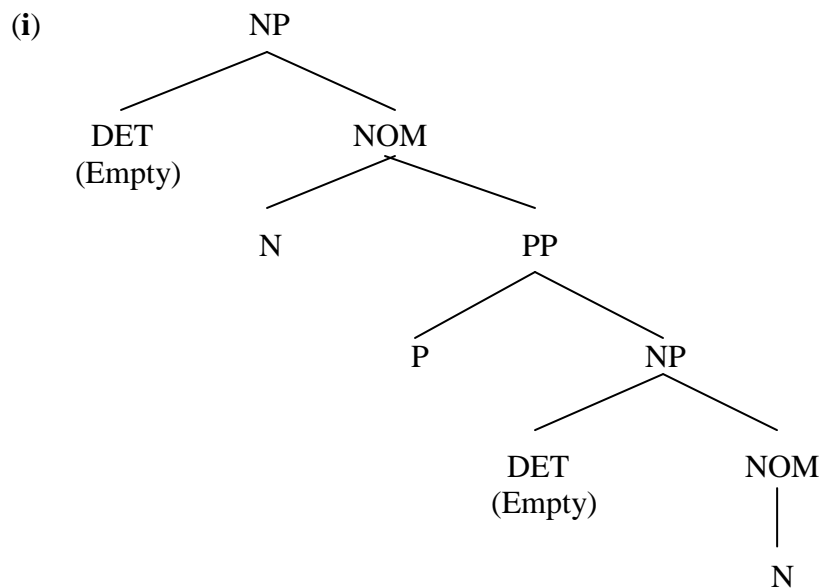
(i) Determiner

(ii) Adjective

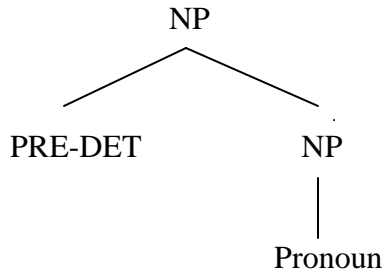
(iii) Pre-determiner

(iv) Either Determiner or Adjective

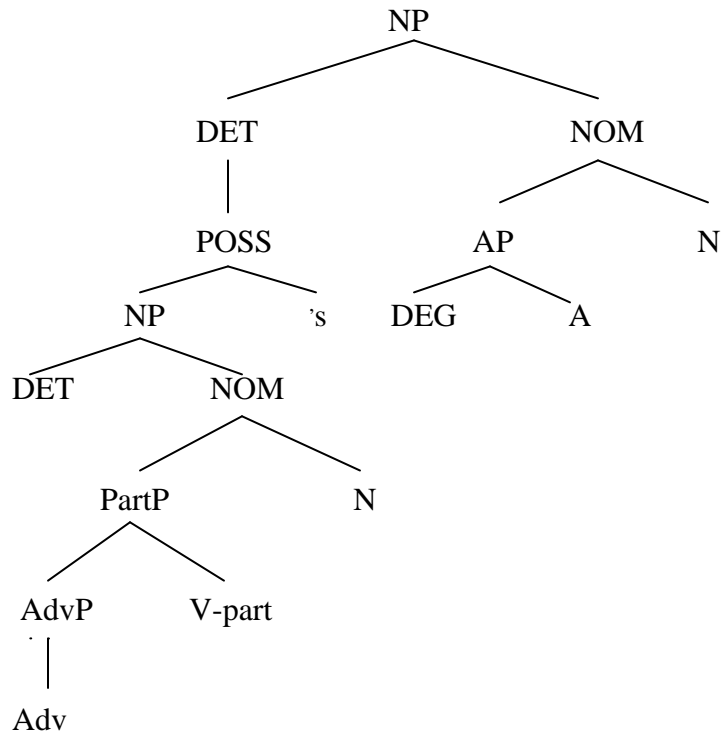
(b) Given below are four phrase markers. Which of them you would accept as representations of potential NPs in English? Find it/them out and frame an NP for each of them. You may use words of your choice to frame the concerned NPs. (Please do not write full sentences.)



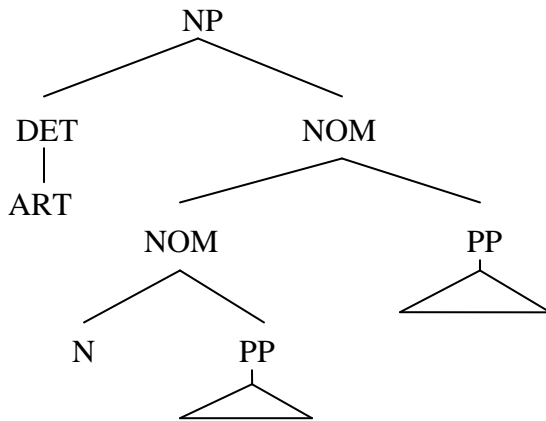
(ii)



(iii)



(iv)



**4. (a)** Identify the verbal groups in the following sentences and analyse them using tree diagrams:

**(i)** The umpire was very disturbed by the players.

**(ii)** Rita looked up the avenue.

**(b)** Which of the following is/are ambiguous? Identify and disambiguate it/them.

**(i)** Pritam appeared in a violent mood.

**(ii)** Salad or soup and fish fingers

**(iii)** The cream was frozen on Monday.

**(c)** It is argued that the rules of syntax specify all and only the grammatical sentences of the language. Why is it important to say “only”? What would be wrong with a grammar that specified as grammatical sentences all of the genuinely grammatical ones plus a few that were not grammatical? Substantiate your opinion with appropriate examples from English.

**(2+2)+6+(4+6)**

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