FEEDBACK TUTORIAL LETTER

1ST SEMESTER 2021

Assignment 1 & 2

Theoretical Linguistics
TRL811S
Dear Student

Thank you for submitting your assignments on time. It was our pleasure to mark both assignments 1 and 2. Hope your marks are good. If you are not satisfied with your grade then you need to put in more efforts in the comprehensive test. Please read through the comments given in the assignments so that you improve on them. It is always best that you read the instructions given as per the assignment. You need to review your references carefully, read on how to reference in a text and how to compile a reference list. Plagiarism is a serious offense and needs to be redressed. Always read and simply summarise information and not copy and paste from the internet. Do not forget to always reference your sources. There are recommended and prescribed books but it seems many simply rely on the internet and on the study guide. You need to read widely. Remember that you usually lose marks for not following instructions. Always leave space between questions. Review your work after writing to attending to any errors that you may have made.

Read the comments that you find in your assignments. If there is anything that you are still unsure of, do not hesitate to contact the marker-tutor.

Regards,

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Course Code: TRL811S

Department: COMMUNICATION

Course Duration: SEMESTER ONE

NQF Level and Credit: LEVEL 8; 15 CREDITS

Your marker-tutor for THEORETICAL LINGUISTICS
The Namibia University of Science and Technology has appointed ANNELI NGHIKEMBUA as marker-tutor for THEORETICAL LINGUISTICS
ANNELI NGHIKEMBUA will be at your service, should you experience any problems with your studies or with the assignments. Contact details are as follows:
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Your moderator for THEORETICAL LINGUISTICS
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ASSIGNMENT 1 [50 Marks]

Question 1

QUESTION 1 [20]

1.1 With relevant examples, distinguish between the following terms. Use your own words as far as possible. Do not forget to provide in-text reference for each response.

a) Deep structure and surface structure [5]
b) Langue and parole [5]
c) Signifier and signified [5]
Syntagmatic and paradigmatic [5]

This question required students to distinguish between the terms, whilst doing so they also provide examples. References where required but some students failed to do so. The references that appear in the definitions should also appear in a reference list.

Nb! No website or TRL811S study guide references should be provided in this assignment. Read prescribed and recommended books and other sources (e.g. Journals) available online.

QUESTION 2 [10]

2.1 Underline the verb phrase[s] in each sentence.

a) After school, the boys played a game of baseball at the park. [2]
b) We hid our canoe in the bushes and set up camp by the river. [2]
c) Candy signed her name on the line and passed the paper across the table. [2]
d) The dog dashed to the door and barked loudly. [2]
e) The storm caused the tree in our front yard to fall against the house. [2]
Although the VP covers the underlined, responses highlighted that specifically pinpoint the VP prior to breaking into phrase structure rules are as well correct.

QUESTION 3: Essay [20]

3.1 With relevant examples, distinguish between traditional grammar and transformational grammar. Your discussion should have three in-text references.

Topic [1]
Intro [3]
Content [11]
Conclusion [2]
In-text ref [3]

Students might include the following major points:

- Traditional grammar is prescriptive because it focuses on the distinction between what some people do with language and what they ought to do with it, according to a pre-established standard. The chief goal of traditional grammar, therefore, is perpetuating a historical model of what supposedly constitutes proper language.

- On the other side, modern grammar is the study of the theories and application of English language structural systems as developed since the onset of the Early Modern English period. It focuses on the spoken and written—and applies traditional, structural, and modern linguistic theories to the analysis of English language constructions: words, phrases, clauses, and discourse. It helps to describe, analyse, and restructure words, phrases, clauses, and sentences, within the contexts of oral and written discourse.

Total Marks for Assignment 1: 50

END OF ASSIGNMENT 01
Assignment 2 [50 Marks]

Answer all the questions

ASSIGNMENT 2 [50 Marks]

Question 1 [10]

Underline the prepositional phrases in these sentences.

f) After school, the boys played a game of baseball at the park. [2]

g) We hid our canoe in the bushes and set up camp by the river. [2]

h) Candy signed her name on the line and passed the paper across the table. [2]

i) Without any warning, the dog dashed to the door and barked loudly. [2]

j) The storm caused the tree in our front yard to fall against the house. [2]

Question 2 [15]

Write phrase structure rules for the following sentences.

a) Helen left after the conference had finished. [5]

b) The Namibian goal keeper was stripped of his gold medals. [5]

c) The dog is waiting to be stroked. [5]

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\begin{align*}
    &a) S \rightarrow NP \ VP (0.5) \\
    &NP \rightarrow N (0.5) \\
    &VP \rightarrow V \ PP (1) \\
    &PP \rightarrow P \ NP (1) \\
    &NP \rightarrow \text{Det} \ N \ VP (1) \\
    &VP \rightarrow \text{Aux} \ V (1) \\
    &b) S \rightarrow NP \ VP (1) \\
    &NP \rightarrow \text{Det( Adj)} \ N (1)
\end{align*}
\]
VP → Aux V PP (1)
PP → P NP (1)
NP → Det Adj N (1)

c) S → NP VP (1)
NP → Det N (1)
VP → Aux V PP (1)
PP → P VP (1)
VP → Aux V (1)

**Question 3 [5]**

A. Indicate whether the underlined VP followed a traditional or transformational view for analyses.

a) We expect our grandparents to arrive in about an hour.  
   Transformational  [1]

b) My cousin watches television almost as much as you do.  
   Traditional  [1]

c) The weatherman says it will rain all day.  
   Traditional  [1]

d) Your brother plays soccer better than my brother does.  
   Transformational  [1]

e) Our friend drives on Mondays.  
   Transformational  [1]

**Question 4 [20]**

Writing a descriptive essay. Read the question below carefully.

Noam Chomsky’s Transformative Generative Grammar (TGG) has made a clear distinction between two complex theoretical concepts: ‘transformational and generative grammar.’ This distinction has also immensely contributed to the present day language research and language teaching worldwide. The transformational and generative rules also can be applied to the Namibian contexts of language research and language education. What are these

Students responses may vary. Amongst points that can be included are the following issues while writing a descriptive essay:

- Transformational refers to a device or a process of changing the form of one linguistic structure to another. For instance, an active sentence can be changed to a passive one while a simple declarative can be changed into a question through the use of transformation (Lamidi, 2000).

- Generative as used in generative grammar does not mean to produce. It means to describe. When it is said that a rule generates a sentence, what this means in transformational grammar is that, a particular rule or set of rules describe how a particular linguistic element or string is formed (Tomori, 1997). Candidates must also discuss and exemplify generative rules.

- Combining the explanations on the above two key words, therefore, transformational generative grammar implies the type of grammar that seeks to explain the rules governing structural changes and the formation of utterances. An attempt to make explicit that knowledge which is implicit in the native speaker of any language (Tomori, 1997).

- Students must exemplify the following transformational rules.
  2. Transformational Structure Rules
  3. Morphophonemic Rules
  4. Context Free Rules
  5. Context Sensitive Rules
  6. Sub Categorization Rules

Students should format this in an essay

Title 2
End of Assignment 2