

CHUKA



UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

FOURTH YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR
EDUCATION ARTS

ENGL 416: CONTEMPORARY THEORIES OF SYNTAX

STREAMS: BED (ARTS)

TIME: 2 HOURS

DAY/DATE: FRIDAY 26/03/2021

11.30 A.M. – 1.30 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question ONE (Compulsory) and any other TWO questions

1. (a) Explain the following notions as used in Chomskyan theories [15 marks]
 - (i) Move alpha
 - (ii) Innateness
 - (iii) Phrase structure rule
 - (iv) Competence
 - (v) Poverty of the stimulus
 - (b) Justify the language acquisition device hypothesis [5 marks]
 - (c) Explain three differences between formal and functional linguistic theories [10 marks]
 2. Describe FIVE types of transformations evident in English [20 marks]
 3. Explain the main developments of generative theory from 1957-1999 [20 marks]
 4. Discuss five modules of the government and binding theory [20 marks]
 5. (a) Explain the following terms as used in the Minimalist program [6 marks]
 - (i) Feature-checking
 - (ii) Merge
 - (iii) I-and E-language
 - (b) Discuss the main tenets of a functional theory you know [12 marks]
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