

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

M.A.

M.A. English Language (Modern): Modern English Grammar

COURSE CODE : ENGLMA02

DATE : 07-MAY-02

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 hours

02-N0117-3-30

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TURN OVER

Modern English Grammar

Answer three questions.

Candidates must not present substantially the same material in any two answers, whether on this paper or in other parts of the examination.

1. Either: (a) What problems may be encountered in attempting to establish a class of determiners for English?

 Or: (b) Discuss the structure of the noun phrase in terms of 'heads' and 'dependents' (as used in Huddleston 1984). In view of this distinction, provide two possible structures for the noun phrase *a number of problems* and comment on the difference between them.
2. Either: (a) Give arguments, both semantic and syntactic, for distinguishing a class of modal verbs (as distinct from both full verbs and auxiliaries).

 Or: (b) 'It is necessary to distinguish the more central modal meanings and those that are more peripheral' (F. R. Palmer). Discuss and illustrate in an essay on the English modals.
3. Define the term 'catenative construction' and discuss some ways of classifying catenatives.
4. What can we learn about the uses of *-self* pronouns from the contexts in which they typically occur?
5. A point which has attracted considerable discussion is the extent to which degrees and kinds of idiomaticness can be established.

(D. Crystal)

Discuss any approaches or contributions to this discussion which you have found interesting.

6. What syntactic and semantic criteria would you appeal to in distinguishing classes of multi-word verbs in English?
7. Consider the view that 'there is some connection between *there* in existential sentences and the demonstrative *there*' (M.Lumsden).
8. Compare any two approaches to the structure of the English verb phrase that you are familiar with.

9. How would you set about distinguishing 'central' and 'marginal' members of one or more English word classes?
10. The linguist's task in characterizing passivization . . . is to ask why it is done . . . rather than merely to ask what is done to the superficial configuration of lexical items.

(R. Lakoff)

Write an essay on the passive in English, focussing either on 'why it is done' or on 'what is done' or both.

11. Evaluate two or more accounts of countability in English nouns and noun phrases.
12. Indicate the range of constructions that have been discussed under the heading of 'apposition', and give a more detailed account of one or two such constructions.
13. Discuss either Huddleston's concept of the 'content clause' or his notion of 'peripheral dependency'.
14. 'All grammars leak' (E. Sapir). Use this quotation as a starting point for an essay on categorization in language.
15. The introduction of introspective data into the battery of techniques that linguists use to do syntactic analysis has allowed greater confidence in the judgment that certain expressions are absent because they are unacceptable, rather than fortuitously missing in a certain corpus of data.

(Baltin and Collins)

In the light of this quotation, discuss the status of attested versus introspective data in grammar.

END OF PAPER