UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

B.A.

Italian X109: Introduction to Linguistics and Syntactic Theory

COURSE CODE : **ITALX109**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **19-MAY-03**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 Hours**

ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM *ALL* SECTIONS AS INSTRUCTED BELOW.

SECTION A – Language Acquisition.

Answer TWO of the following three questions (1, 2, and 3). Each question should be answered in the spaces provided below.

1. As we saw in class, children acquiring a language make similar systematic mistakes. Explain why this observation supports the hypothesis that children actively construct a grammar of their own rather than merely imitate the sentences that they hear from adult speakers.

2. Provide ONE argument supporting the *Innateness Hypothesis* of language acquisition against the *Little Scientist Hypothesis*.

3. Describe TWO aspects of the language acquisition process that are typical of innate instinct-driven behaviour.

TURN OVER

1

SECTION B - Phrasal Constituency and Syntactic Structures.

Answer ALL of the following four questions (4, 5, 6, and 7).

4. Provide the syntactic category of each <u>underlined</u> word in the sentences below, and determine whether the category is lexical or functional.

	Category:	Class:
E.g.1: John will <u>meet</u> Mary.	*V*	*Lexical*
E.g.2: John <u>will</u> meet Mary.	*I*	*Functional*

	Category:	Class:
a. The <u>sun</u> was shining.	___	___
b. <u>We</u> psychologists like to analyse people.	___	___
c. Mary <u>had</u> read every book on the subject.	___	___
d. They are very <u>happy</u> in their new house.	___	___
e. I asked <u>whether</u> she had any letters for me.	___	___
f. He went <u>to</u> Rome.	___	___

5. Determine whether the <u>underlined</u> expression in the following SIX sentences is a phrasal constituent, and if so provide its syntactic category and its head as in the examples given. Remember to distinguish VP from IP and IP from CP.

	NO:	YES:	Category:	Head:
E.g.1: John will <u>meet Mary</u>.	-	*Yes*	*VP*	*meet*
E.g.2: The <u>dog bit</u> a cat.	*No*	-	-	-

	NO:	YES:	Category:	Head:
a. My friends have <u>visited Pisa</u>.	___	___	___	___
b. <u>My friends have</u> visited Pisa.	___	___	___	___
c. I think <u>that Pierre</u> comes from France.	___	___	___	___
d. I think <u>that Pierre comes from France</u>.	___	___	___	___
e. <u>I think</u> that Pierre comes from France.	___	___	___	___
f. <u>I have discovered that Pierre is French</u>.	___	___	___	___

CONTINUE

2

6. Provide the tree-structure representation for the sentence below.
   Make sure that each word and phrase is labelled with the appropriate category.

   May had said that Bill would come

7. Provide the tree-structure representation for the sentence below.
   Make sure that each word and phrase is labelled with the appropriate category.

Did Mary understand that the students had gone to Rome?

SECTION C – Morphology. Answer ALL questions (8, 9, and 10).

8. Identify the *stem, prefixes,* and *suffixes,* of each listed word, distinguishing between derivational and inflectional suffixes.

	Stem:	Prefixes:	Derivational Suffixes:	Inflectional Suffixes:
E.g.1: lockable	*Lock*	–	*-able*	–
E.g.2: reconsidered	*consider*	*re-*	–	*-ed*
a. birds				
b. prepackaging				
c. containers				
d. agreement				
e. nationality				
f. quickly				

9. Provide the tree-structure representation for the morphological decomposition of the two words in (a) and (b) below. Label each morpheme and each node of the tree with the appropriate category. For prefixes, you may use 'PRE'.

      a. Nationalisation   b. Reusable

TURN OVER

10. Provide the tree-structure representation for the morphological decomposition for the word in (a) and the compound in (b) below. Label each morpheme and each node of the tree with the appropriate category. You may use 'PRE' for prefixes.

        a. Unbelievable   b. England cricket match chaos

END OF PAPER