



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

**FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR
THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF
EDUCATION WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

HOMA-BAY CAMPUS

AEN 402: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

Date: 24th April, 2016

Time: 8.00 - 10.00 am

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.



AEN 402: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR

ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

Q1. a) Fillmore's Case Grammar provides the links between a verb and its valence. Explain with illustrations the three levels of Valency. (15 marks)

b) Assess the following concepts as developed by Halliday:

- i. Ideational Content Function
 - ii. Interpersonal Function
 - iii. Textual Function
- (15 marks)

Q2. Frei describes language in terms of its functionality. Describe this assertion using the following:

- i. Assimilation
 - ii. Differentiation
 - iii. Brevity
 - iv. Invariability
 - v. Expressibility
- (20 marks)

Q3. a) Establish rheme and theme as semantic concepts (5 marks)

b) Demonstrate with explanations the applicability of the concepts in a) above in the following constructions:

- i. It is the spirit which is the source of a community's drawing power
 - ii. In searching for clues which might lead us to a fresh apprehension of the reality of spirit, the close connection between spirit and community is likely to prove the most fruitful.
 - iii. Apart from spirit there could be no community
 - iv. If there's buzzing noise, somebody's making a buzzing noise.
 - v. Once upon a time, a very long time ago now, about last Friday, John lived in a forest all by himself.
- (15 marks)

Q4. a) Identify the semantic roles of the bold words in the following sentences:

- i. **My father** always feels proud of me
- ii. I went **home** early yesterday
- iii. **The car** crashed then **the door** closed
- iv. **John** understood the problem
- v. **David** gave **Mary** a book
- vi. **She** gave **the class** books

vii. **The teacher** can imagine how the class felt (10 marks)

b) Explain, with examples, the following terminologies as used in Functional Grammar:

i) Linguistic expression

ii) A predicate frame

iii) Argument

iv) Semantic functions

v) Categorical statement (10 marks)

Q5. Discuss the linguistic concepts as proposed by the following Functional Grammarians:

i) Austin and Searle

ii) Simon Dik (20 marks)