



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA,  
 PLOT 91, CADASTRAL ZONE, JABI, ABUJA  
 FACULTY OF ARTS  
**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES**  
 2022\_2 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG421

COURSE TITLE: NEW TRENDS IN SYNTAX

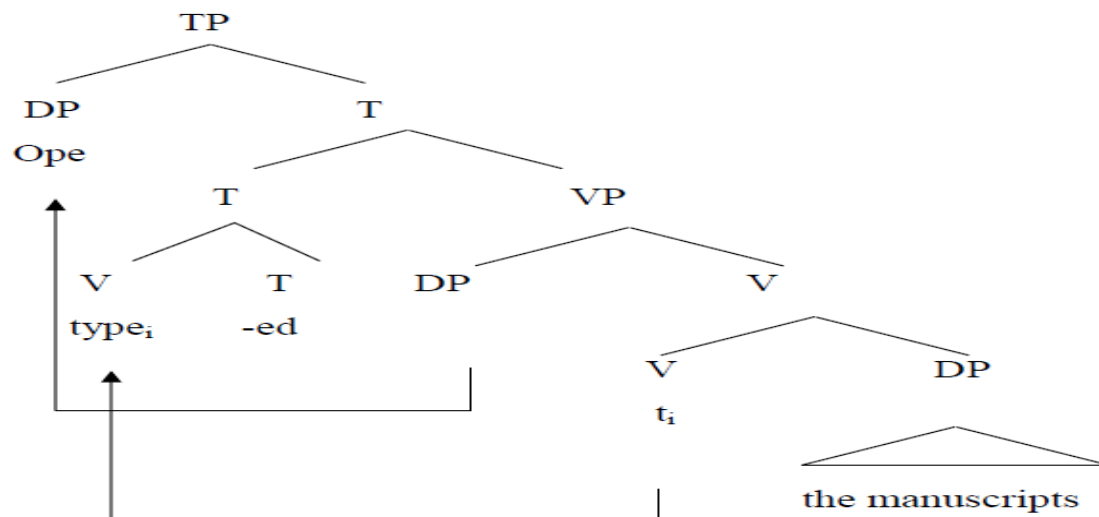
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

**INSTRUCTION:** Answer Any 4 Questions (*Your correct use of language elements will earn you additional 2½ marks for each question attempted.*)

1. Describe the major features that differentiate the GB Syntax from the Minimalist Program 5 marks.  
 Do diagrammatic representation to show clearly this difference. 10 marks

Total 15 marks

2. Zwart (1996:2) asserts that an element will “move only to contribute to its personal licensing”. Using the tree diagram below, explain how this feature works in a syntactic transformation.



15 marks

3. Write short notes on the following concepts

i. The Tense Phrase (TP) 5 marks

ii. The Complementizer Phrase (CP) 5 marks

iii. The Negation Phrase (NegP) 5 marks

15 marks

4. Compare and Contrast the passive and ergative forms in the Minimalist Program 10 marks. Give at least one example each for passive and ergative forms 2 marks. If the examples are illustrated with tree diagrams, you get additional score of 1½ marks for each example. 5 marks

15 marks

5. Give 5 structures clearly showing the elements bearing topicality in them. You may underline the element that is topical in the structure. 3 marks for each structure given and the topical element identified.

15 marks

