Lecturer: Ezekiel BOLAJI

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Course Code: ELS 401

Programme: Full Time Degree

Course Title: New Trends in Syntax

Session: 2018/2019

Course Objectives:

a. To examine the syntactic structures of English syntax
b. To examine topics of currency in English syntax
c. To further examine other topics of relevance to English Syntax

At the end of this course, the learners should be able to:

a. Generate well-formed structures in English
b. Do linguistic descriptions and analysis of relevant structures in their own language

Course Rules and Regulations

✓ Students shall not be allowed into the class 15 minutes after the class commences without cogent reasons
✓ Students’ phones shall not ring or disturb the class in anyway
✓ Students shall not receive phone calls, text or receive messages in class
✓ Students shall not live the class without the lecturer’s permission
✓ Students shall not disturb the class in any way whatsoever

Course Expectations

❖ Students shall record 75% attendance in class to qualify for examination
❖ Students are expected to write two class tests which shall attract 10 marks each, making a total of 20 marks
❖ 75% attendance in class shall qualifies a candidate to write the examination
❖ Students will be expected to do a homework which shall attract 10 marks
❖ Students are expected to make 1 presentation in class which shall attract 10 marks
❖ Total CA score: 40 marks
❖ Students shall write an examination attracting 60 marks

Course Contents

WEEK 1:
➢ Grammar and Syntax

WEEK 2:
➢ How to Draw Syntactic Trees (Hallidayan/Chomskyan)
➢ Tasks for the Next Class

WEEK 3:
➢ Some Syntactic Terminology
➢ Tasks for the next class – homework 1 (5 marks), manner and deadline for submission

WEEK 4:
➢ Grammatical Categories
➢ Class discussion
➢ Tasks for the next class
➢ Test 1 (20 Marks)

WEEK 5:
➢ Pronominalisation
➢ Class discussion
➢ Topics for class Presentation in week 12
➢ Students are put into group and tasks are assigned for the next class

WEEK 6:
➢ Complement Structures
➢ Tasks for the next class – Homework 2 (5 marks), manner and deadline for submission

WEEK 7:
➢ Case Marking
➢ Theta Roles

WEEK 8:
➢ Syntactic Theories I: Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG)

WEEK 9:
➢ Syntactic Theory II: x-Bar Theory

WEEK 10:
Syntactic Theory III: Government and Binding Theory

WEEK 11:
➢ The Minimalist Program

WEEK 12: Presentation
WEEK 13: Revision and Examination

References
Mayowa Akinlotan (2016) Genitive alternation in New Englishes:
The case of Nigerian English

Nigerian English. Dissertation


Howard Lasnik (2002). The Minimalist program in Syntax


More to be supplied.

Online Resources
2. Class WhatsApp group
3. Other sources