

**DENA 2417**  
**DENB 2417**

**SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION**

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**HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 2003**

**COURSE I AND COURSE II**

**PAPER 8 (h) (i) AND B4 LINGUISTIC THEORY**

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**Wednesday, 28 May 2003, 2.30 pm – 5.30 pm**

**Time Allowed – Three hours**

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**Answer *three* questions. You should pay careful attention in your answers to the precise terms of the quotations and questions.**

**Do not turn over until told to do so.**

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- 1 No logical scheme of the parts of speech – their number, nature and necessary confines – is of the slightest interest to the linguist. Each language has its own scheme (Edward Sapir). Is this viewpoint tenable?
- 2 Generative grammar is not so much a theory as a family of theories, or a school of thought (Thomas Wasow) Discuss.
- 3 **Either (a)** ‘There are only a limited number of paths of grammaticalization for each grammatical category’. Can this claim be justified?  
  
**Or (b)** The study of grammaticalization challenges the concept of a sharp divide between langue and parole (Elizabeth Traugott and Ekkehard König) Discuss
4. It is clear that the concept of prototypicality has an important role to play in the study of grammar (Paul Hopper and Sandra Thompson). Assess this statement.
- 5 **Either (a)** Give an account of the rules of stress assignment in English.  
  
**Or (b)** Outline and evaluate the major principles of any theory of syllable structure or syllabification
- 6 Language change is essentially a random ‘walk’ through the space of possible parameter settings (Adrian Battye and Ian Roberts) Discuss
- 7 Universal Grammar in a formal sense should not consist of anything more than very general constraints on types of categories and their configuration in syntactic structures or constructions (William Croft) Evaluate this viewpoint
- 8 Semantic change cannot be studied without drawing on a theory of polysemy (Elizabeth Traugott and Richard Dasher) Is this opinion a reliable one?
9. ‘Linguistic communication would break down without conversational implicatures’. Discuss.
10. Grammatical knowledge is procedural knowledge (Joan Bybee) Explain and assess this claim.

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11. If variation is nothing but a transitional phenomenon, a way-station between two invariant stages of the language, it can have only a limited role in our view of the human language faculty (William Labov) Comment on this statement
12. Cognitive linguistics will eventually have to make its peace with 'classical' categories (Alan Cruse). Discuss.
13. There is only one human language, apart from the lexicon (Noam Chomsky). Examine this assumption.
14. Outline and evaluate the major principles of any constraint-based phonological theory.
15. To what extent is it possible to maintain a distinction between literal and non-literal meaning?
16. **Either (a)** Explain what is meant by DP and evaluate its role in syntactic theory  
**Or (b)** Explain what is meant by raising and assess its role in syntactic theory.
17. 'It is difficult to avoid the terms "inflection" and "derivation" in discussions of morphology'. Is this true?