Information

University of Oslo
Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages
Spring 2021
ENG2100 – Advanced English Grammar: Syntax and argumentation

4-hour written exam without supervision, June 1 at 9:00 AM.

Practical information about the examination

You submit your answer in doc(x) or PDF format.

You should calculate at least 2-3 minutes to upload your document to Inspera.

The uploaded document will be automatically submitted when the time is up.

After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

You can change language in Inspera by clicking on the icon in the upper right corner.

If you want to withdraw from the examination, please click on the icon in the upper right corner, and then choose “withdraw”.

Requirements

The exam paper consists of THREE parts, Parts I, II and III. All three parts must be answered, and a pass mark is required on all three. Part I counts 50% towards your mark, Part II 20% and Part III 30%. In Parts I and III, choose ONE of the two alternatives.

Part II requires a syntactic tree. This tree can be drawn by hand, scanned or photographed, and included as a picture in your file.

Your paper must contain the following information:

- candidate number, NOT your name, your candidate number is available in Studentweb;
- course code and course name.

Please use Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1.5 line spacing in the body of the text. The pages must be numbered.

Sources and referencing

It is important that you familiarize yourself with the rules for sources and referencing: https://www.hf.uio.no/english/studies/sources-referencing/index.html
It is not mandatory to include a bibliography (reference list) in a short take-home examination (2-6 hours).

Using other people's material without declaring it properly may be considered as cheating or attempted cheating. The consequences of cheating or attempted cheating may be severe for you as a student, please follow the link for more information: https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/

Contact information

If you are experiencing technical difficulties during your examination or have further questions, please call 22 84 10 70.

1 Questions

Text for analysis (pdf)

Part I (50%)

Choose EITHER question A OR question B.

A. Give an account of information-packing constructions in English. Focus on their role in information structure, i.e. how they make sentence conform to for example the information principle and/or the end weight principle. Your account need not be exhaustive, but it should include the identification and description of three relevant constructions found in the attached text.

B. Give an account of non-finite clauses in English. Your account should include a brief outline of the main difference between finite and non-finite clauses. However, the focus should be on the forms of non-finite clauses and their syntactic functions at phrase level and clause level. Illustrate your account with examples from the attached text. If necessary, supplement with examples from elsewhere.

Part II (20%)

C. Draw an X-bar diagram of the following sentence. and write a brief comment on your analysis in which you explain the choices you made.

The urge to attribute feelings to insects can be surprisingly strong.

Part III (30%)

Choose EITHER question D OR question E.

D. How can you argue for or against classifying the underlined words in the following sentences as auxiliaries?
Some doubt begins to creep in. *Science is moving quickly.*
Use the syntactic criteria outlined in the textbooks to discuss differences between "auxiliaries proper" and verbs such as *begin*.

E. "Pronouns form a subclass of nouns distinguished syntactically from common nouns and proper nouns by their inability to take determiners as dependent" (Huddleston & Pullum 2002: 100). Present arguments for and against regarding pronouns as a subclass of noun rather than a word class in its own right. Your discussion should be illustrated with English examples.

Følgende filtyper er tillatt: **.pdf,.doc,.docx** Maksimal filstørrelse er **2 GB**.

Velg fil for opplasting

Maks poeng: 0

Question 1
Attached

ENG2100. Text for analysis, spring 2021

Which animals should be considered sentient in the eyes of the law?

Look a dog in the eye and a conscious being looks back. A being that feels hunger, thirst, warmth, cold, fear, comfort, pleasure, pain, joy. No one can seriously doubt this. The same is true of any mammal. You cannot watch rats playing hide and seek and doubt that they have feelings – that they are sentient creatures. But as animals become more distant from us in evolutionary terms, some doubt begins to creep in.

Consider a bee sneaking past the guards of a rival colony to steal honey. Or the Brazilian ants that, in order to hide their nest at the end of each day, seal off the entrance from the outside. Left out in the cold at night, these ants will never see the morning, but their sacrifice increases the chance that their sisters will. The urge to attribute feelings to insects can be surprisingly strong.

But then we think: wait, can we really talk like this? An insect's brain is organised completely differently from a mammal's. It is also much smaller (a bee has about 1m neurons, compared with our 100bn). Could insects be robot-like evolved machines with absolutely no experience or feeling? Or are we underestimating what a small brain can do?

New laws to impose some consistency in this area have been needed for a while. So the animal welfare (sentience) bill, introduced to parliament on Thursday, is a welcome development, as is the creation of an animal sentience committee. The bill includes vertebrates by default, but explicitly allows invertebrates to be added through statutory instruments. I can see the rationale for such an approach in an area where the science is moving quickly.

For instance, on the question of insect sentience, scientists are divided, partly because there has been no serious attempt to look for sentience in insects. The science at present is too uncertain to allow us to be confident one way or the other. I think that situation will change: one goal of my Foundations of Animal Sentience project is to address this.

If the evidence does point towards sentience being widespread among invertebrates, what then? Would we end up with absurd laws banning us from stepping on insects? No. Laws are limited by what is enforceable and reasonable. But think about insect farming, which currently falls outside the scope of animal welfare laws. Should it really be completely unregulated, or would some welfare regulations make sense? The question deserves careful thought.

Cases like these point to the need for a scientific approach to animal sentience: an approach that goes beyond our intuitive reactions, which are often anthropomorphic and mammal-centric. An approach based on looking at what feelings do for us, and then looking carefully for markers of analogous brain processes in other animals. Reflexes are not enough to establish sentience: it's important to show that the animal has a central system that values and disvalues stimuli. There is no single litmus test: many different markers are relevant. Insight can come from neuroscience, cognition, behaviour – and ideally all three pointing in the same direction.

(From https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/may/16/animals-feel-humans-evidence-sentient)