



University of Kelaniya – Sri Lanka

Centre for Distance and Continuing Education

Bachelor of Arts (General) Degree Second Examination (External) – 2022

August / September 2025

Faculty of Humanities

Teaching English as a Second Language

(Academic years 2009 to 2016)

Morphology and Syntax of English TESL - E2015

No. of questions: 9

Marks: 100% (20*5)

Time: 03 Hours

Answer only **five (05)** questions. Select three (03) questions from part A and two (02) questions from part B. (20 marks per question)

Section A

1. A **morpheme** is the smallest unit of meaning in a language, which cannot be further divided without losing or altering its meaning (Katamba, 1993). Do you agree/disagree with this statement. Discuss your answer, giving suitable examples. **(20 Marks)**
2. Compare and contrast two productive morphological processes in English of your choice. Provide suitable examples. **(20 Marks)**
3. 'English is a living language (Hart, 1895).' Discuss this statement with reference to two productive morphological processes in Sri Lankan English. **(20 Marks)**
4. Inflectional morphemes alter the form of a word in order to indicate certain grammatical properties. Derivation forms new words by adding morphemes to stems. Discuss inflection and derivation as morphological processes with reference to this statement. **(20 Marks).**
5. Write short notes on the following topics. **(5*4 = 20 Marks).**

- A. Free morphemes
- B. Blending
- C. Allomorphs
- D. Borrowings

Section B

6. Examine 'syntactic errors' of ESL learners of Sri Lanka. Discuss your answer with suitable examples. (20 Marks)
7. Discuss syntactic changes in English with reference to examples from both Old English and Modern English/es. (20 Marks)
8. According to Radford (2004), a phrase is a group of one or more words that function as a single syntactic unit within a sentence. In contrast, a clause is defined by Chomsky (1957) as a syntactic structure containing a subject and a predicate, which may function independently as a sentence or dependently within another clause. Do you agree/ disagree? Justify your answer with examples. (20 Marks)
9. **Syntax** is "the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages" (Chomsky, 2002, p. 3). Do you agree/ disagree? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples. (20 Marks)
