



## MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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### University Examinations 2024/2025

FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
DATA SCIENCE, BACHELOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

#### CDS 3400: NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING

**DATE: DECEMBER 2024**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer question *ONE* (Compulsory) and any other *TWO* questions

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#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- Define sentiment analysis in the context of natural language processing. Explain its applications and significance. (5 marks)
- Discuss the differences between lexicon-based and machine learning approaches in sentiment analysis. Provide examples of each approach. (5 marks)
- Implement a basic lexicon-based sentiment analyzer in Python that can classify a given sentence as positive, negative, or neutral. (5 marks)
- Explain the concept of overfitting in the context of sentiment analysis with machine learning models. Discuss techniques to prevent overfitting. (5 marks)
- Share your thoughts on the potential challenges and biases in sentiment analysis when applied to social media data. (5 marks)
- Calculate the perplexity of a given sentence using a language model. Show your calculations. (5 marks)

#### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- Define dependency parsing and explain the role of dependency trees in representing sentence structure. (5 marks)

- b) Describe the transition-based parsing approach in dependency parsing. Provide an example of how a transition-based parser works. (5 marks)
- c) Implement a basic dependency parser in Python that can parse a given sentence and display its dependency tree structure. (5 marks)
- d) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of dependency parsing compared to constituency parsing. (5 marks)

### **QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

- a) Define Semantic Role Labeling (SRL) and explain its importance in natural language understanding. (5 marks)
- b) Describe the concepts of Frame Net and Prop Bank in the context of SRL. Explain how they are used in annotating sentences with semantic roles. (5 marks)
- c) Implement a Python code snippet to perform semantic role labeling for a provided sentence. (5 marks)
- d) Discuss the challenges of automatic Semantic Role Labeling for languages with complex syntactic structures. Provide examples if necessary. (5 marks)

### **QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

- a) Explain the differences between rule-based and statistical approaches to machine translation. Provide examples of languages that might benefit from each approach. (5 marks)
- b) Describe the concept of phrase-based machine translation and how it differs from word-based machine translation. (5 marks)
- c) Implement a simple machine translation system in Python for a given language pair. (5 marks)
- d) Discuss the challenges of machine translation for languages with highly inflected morphology. Provide examples if necessary. (5 marks)

### **QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

- a) Define dialogue systems and discuss their role in human-computer interaction. (5 marks)
- b) Describe the difference between task-oriented and conversational dialogue systems. Provide examples of applications for each type. (5 marks)
- c) Implement a basic task-oriented dialogue system in Python for a provided task. (5 marks)
- d) Discuss the challenges of building dialogue systems that can handle natural language variations, user interruptions, and multiple intents in a conversation. (5 marks)