



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

AEN 100: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

DATE: 11/12/2019

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Define the following terms
- i. Aphasia (2 marks)
 - ii. Phone (1 mark)
 - iii. Prescriptive linguistics (2 marks)
 - iv. Semiotics (2 marks)
 - v. Semantics (1 mark)
 - vi. Minimal pair (2 marks)
 - vii. Mutual intelligibility (2 marks)
- b) Explain any ONE characteristic that makes linguistic studies scientific (2 marks)
- c) Differentiate between the following:
- i. a natural and an artificial language. (3 marks)
 - ii. a continuant and a non-continuant sound (2 marks)
- d) Discuss the contribution of Broca to linguistic studies (3 marks)
- e) Using ONE example, explain the concept of presupposition (4 marks)
- f) State the importance of cardinal vowels in phonology (2 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Use TWO examples of each category to show the two main divisions of morphemes (8 marks)
- b) Explain the difference between ‘knowing a language’ and ‘knowing about a language’ (6 marks)
- c) Using TWO examples, explain the concept of language universals (6 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Discuss any FIVE properties that make languages universal

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the difference between consonant and vowel sounds (2 marks)
- b) Using TWO relevant examples for each category, discuss:
- i. Any TWO parameters for describing vowel sounds (6 marks)
 - ii. Any FOUR parameters for describing consonant sounds (12 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

Pick any FOUR topics that you have studied in AEN 100 and use examples to show their contribution to your knowledge as a teacher of language