



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY
University Examinations for 2019/2020 Academic Year
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES
SECOND YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)
BACHELOR OF ARTS
AEN 402: ENGLISH SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

DATE: SCHOOLBASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer QUESTION 1 and any other TWO questions. All answers should be written in the answer sheets provided during the examination. Ungrammatical constructions will be penalised.

1. a) With adequate illustrations, explain the following concepts in semantics. (6 marks)
- i) Polysemy
 - ii) Hyponymy
 - iii) Synonymy
- b) Use the sentence below to explain the following semantic roles (8 marks)
- Ruto spanked the child in the staffroom with a stick.*
- i) agent
 - iii) patient
 - iv) instrument
 - v) location
- c) Use the text below to explain the following concepts in pragmatics.
- Customer: Just these, please.
Waiter: Are you eighteen?
Customer: Oh, I study at MKSU.
Waiter: (after a brief pause) OK (serves beer to her).

- i) Deictic features (3 marks)
 - ii) Presupposition (5 marks)
 - iii) Co-operative Principle (7 marks)
2. With specific examples, show how the speech context and the interpersonal relations of the participants affect meaning. (20 marks)
3. Explain the term theme and state any four thematic systems according to Huddleston (1984) (20 marks)
4. With specific examples, explain the following types of meaning. (20 marks)
- i) Conceptual meaning
 - ii) Affective meaning
 - iii) Reflected meaning
 - iv) Collocative meaning
5. With illustrations, discuss any four functions of language according to Geoffrey Leech (1981) (20 marks)