



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: 27/10/2020

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Using appropriate examples, distinguish between the following pairs of terms in semantics (6 marks)
- i) Referential and representational theory
 - ii) Transitional and behavioral semantics
 - iii) Word and concept
- b) State and illustrate the difference between semantics and pragmatics. (4 marks)
- c) Define and illustrate the lexical relations of
- i) hyponymy and meronymy
 - ii) Synonyms and polysemy (8 marks)
- d) Use the componential analysis technique to distinguish the meaning of the word 'man' from 'mare' (6 marks)
- e) Demonstrate how Linguistic and situational context affect the meaning of a word (6 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain four reasons that demonstrate that definition of the word meaning is rather elusive (4 marks)
- b) Using appropriate examples describe and distinguish the following types of meaning: (12 marks)
- i) Thematic vs. conceptual meaning
 - ii) Connotative vs. collocative meaning
 - iii) Reflected vs. Affective meaning

- c) Show the meaning of a word in close relation to the prototype theory (4 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe lexical and structural paraphrases. (5 marks)
- b) Explain how the following pairs of words relate to sentential meaning (15 marks)
- i) Tautology; vagueness
 - ii) Presupposition; Entailment
 - iii) Analyticity; Contradiction

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) With reference to the Speech Act theory, explain how we can do things with words (12 marks)
- b) Explain how Grice's (1975) cooperative principles can be flouted in a conversation (8 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Define the term politeness as used in pragmatics. (4 marks)
- b) Explain ways in which Brown and Levinson's (1987) Politeness theory can save face for others in an interaction (16 marks)