



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 407: LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY AND LANGUAGE CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 26/10/2020

TIME: 8:30 – 10:30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Using appropriate examples explain the following terms: (6 marks)
- i) Language typology
 - ii) Linguistic Universals
 - iii) Language family
- b) Describe the following approaches to the study of language typology: (6 marks)
- i) Formal approach
 - ii) Functional approach
- c) Distinguish between the following types of universals: (8 marks)
- i) Formal vs substantive
 - ii) Absolute vs non-absolute
- d) Discuss the different classes of languages basing on the syntactic typology. (10 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Discuss any four types of language basing on the following classification

- i) Analytic languages
- ii) Synthetic languages
- iii) Agglutinative languages
- iv) Polysynthetic languages

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Discuss the comparative method of classifying language genealogically.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe any **FIVE** families of African languages (10 marks)
- b) Distinguish the structural linguistics characteristics in African languages. (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Describe the following concepts in relation to classification of languages: (8 marks)
 - i) Language borrowing
 - ii) Language variation
 - iii) Language change
- b) Explain the different types of language borrowing. (12 marks)