



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2021/2022 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

AEN 402: ENGLISH SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

DATE:

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

There are three sections. Answer Question One (Compulsory) and Any Other Two Questions; one from Section B and another from Section C.

SECTION A – COMPULSORY

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) The meaning of meaning is rather elusive even to semanticists. Explain four cases to support this claim. (20 marks)
- b) With the help of examples, explain the relationship between conventional and conversational implicatures. (10 marks)

SECTION B - SEMANTICS

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

With the help of examples, describe how any five (5) discovery procedures may be used to learn the meaning of vocabulary.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

How does the prototype theory account for the representation of words in the human brain?

SECTION C – PRAGMATICS

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

According to Sullivan (2012) reference is the relation between a linguistic expression and what it stands for denotes. Discuss.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

a) In pragmatic inference, it is possible to mean something else than what is said. Use the following two texts to explain the paradox.

i. I am a man (said by a man)

ii. I am a man (said by a woman)

(8 marks)

b) Study the utterances below.

John regrets that he kissed Zora >> John kissed Zora

The signs >> mean “entails”

Analyse the utterances to demonstrate that in presupposition:

i. The speaker assumes something to be the case;

ii. Something logically follows from what is asserted earlier (entailment)

iii. Speakers, not sentences have presuppositions

(12 marks)