



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2020/2021

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

FIRST YEAR SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE IN

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

AEN 100: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

DATE: 13/8/2021

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

*Answer question one and any other two questions*

**QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)**

- (a) Define the following terms
- (i) Broca's Aphasia (2 marks)
  - (ii) Phonology (2 marks)
  - (iii) Semiotics (2 marks)
  - (iv) Semantics (2 marks)
  - (v) Minimal pair (2 marks)
  - (vi) 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) Explain the importance of Wernicke's area of the brain (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) Identify and explain any two properties of human language (6 marks)

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the four parameters that are used to describe vowel sounds (20 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

- (a) Explain how linguistics and sociology are related (10 marks)
- (b) Explain the concept of prescriptive linguistics (10 marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the usefulness of the study of language to you as a teacher/student of language