

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FINAL EXAMINATION

MAIN PAPER

MAY, 2005

COURSE TITLE : ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES III.3
COURSE CODE : E3P3
TIME ALLOWED : THREE HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. THIS PAPER HAS SEVEN QUESTIONS**
- 2. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS
GRANTED PERMISSION TO DO SO**

1. Write short notes on the following:

- a. regional dialects (5)
- b. social dialects (5)
- c. code mixing (5)
- d. bilingualism (5)

2. Discuss the variety of possible relationships between language and society. Which of these relationships do you consider realistic? Give three reasons for your choice. (20)

3. A diglossic situation exists in a society when it has two distinct codes which show clear functional separation. Explain and give three examples of diglossic situations. (20)

4. Discuss the Whorfian hypothesis on language and culture. In your discussion ensure that you also touch upon other possible hypotheses with regard to the relationship between language and culture. (20)

5. Whinnom (1971) observes that "modern linguists have been dangerously sentimental about creole languages, which, with only a few notable exceptions, constitute in most communities a distinct handicap to the social mobility of the individual and may also constitute a handicap to the creole speaker's personal intellectual development". Discuss the above quotation. (20)

6. Language planning as an attempt to interfere deliberately with a language or one of its varieties deals with various issues. Identify these issues and discuss their relevance in Southern Africa. (20)

7. Several myths regarding variant English still go around. Using your knowledge of English and its dialects, discuss the following four positions: (20)

- a. Variant English is inferior to standard English.
- b. Variant English is less effective a means of communication than is standard English.
- c. Speakers of variant English are developmentally immature in their acquisition of language.
- d. Poor environmental conditions have produced the language deficiencies of variant English dialect speakers.

Total: /100