

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
AND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION
SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER
JULY, 2005

COURSE TITLE : CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS
COURSE CODE : ENG 303
TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. THIS PAPER HAS FOUR QUESTIONS**
- 2. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS**
- 3. QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY**
- 4. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS**

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

QUESTION 1

PASSAGE A

Dear Dad,

I feel very disappointed and sad. Ricky and I want a dog to have as a friend. A dog can be trained not to dig up the garden - cats can't. Dogs can come with me waling to keep me safe - people with dogs don't usually get attacked. Do you want me to get attacked? I have no sisters or brothers around my age to play with and I get lonely. A dog could be my friend and play with me. Sophie and Ripley don't play with me. All the playing is done by me. I have \$600 in my bank. That would pay for food and stuff for our dog for ages.

Love from

your lonely daughter

Amy

P.S. I will give you time to think about it.

PASSAGE B

Haemophilia B is an inherited disease that affects eight people in Dunedin, and one in every ten thousand New Zealanders. While the disease has been around for a long time (members of both the Russian and British royal families suffered from the disease last century) it is receiving a great deal of public attention. Haemophilia is caused by a deficiency fo part of the protein in blood plasma called antihæmophilic globulin (factor VIII). The lack of clotting factors in the blood causes spontaneous bleeding in sufferers. In the past having haemophilia meant years of suffering and an early death. Quality of life has improved since the late sixties, when methods of treatment became available, thus increasing the life expectancy of sufferers. The treatment itself is causing the most disastrous side effects, the threat of contracting the HIV virus through contaminated blood products. While the treatment and quality of life of hæmophilic sufferers is improving, their treatment by community is worsening. Many people see hæmophiliacs in the same way they see drug addicts and homosexuals, that is, as potential carriers of AIDS.

- a) Above are samples of written texts. Comment on the way the writers have structured the texts, chosen words to suit their purpose and meaning. 15 marks
- b) Discuss five major differences between written and spoken discourse. 15 marks

QUESTION 2

- a) What are the characteristics of a conversation? 15 marks
- b) How are turns allocated in conversational interaction? 15 marks

QUESTION 3

- a) Discuss Grice's (1975) conversational maxims and the way in which these are useful in constructing meaning. 15 marks
- b) In the exchange below, what speech act does A's utterance represent. In terms of the Gricean's (1975) conversational maxims, in what sense is B's response inappropriate?

A: Have you seen my jacket?

B: Yes!

15 marks

QUESTION 4

From what you have read and observations you have made, discuss the claim that there is a difference between the sexes in conversation. Support your answer using at least six examples

30 marks