

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION
MAY 2005

COURSE TITLE : PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE : ENG 403

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. This paper consists of four questions.**
- 2. Answer any two questions.**
- 3. All questions carry 20 marks each.**

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

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS

1. According to scholars such as Milroy (1992), Rodman and Fromkin (1978) and Quirk (1988) a standard variety of a language exists only in the mind of a people; it is an ideology. It is a created construct; nobody speaks it. How far do you agree? To strengthen your argument, draw your examples from "Standard English" by clearly discussing the agents of the standardization process showing the historical processes that were involved when English was standardized.

[20]

2. How far do you agree that our language determines our world-view? Base your argument on linguistic determinism and the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.

[20]

3. Discuss the factors that have been noted as important in a language planning process showing the extent to which an understanding of each can be useful in the language-planning situation in South Africa.

[20]

4. a) With the aid of examples, discuss the forces behind language change. [10]

- b) Languages do not only change but are also lost. Discuss the four categories of language loss and also discuss the factors responsible for language loss. [10]