

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Final examination

2007

<i>Title of paper</i>	Language meaning and use
<i>Course number</i>	Eng203/IDE-Eng203
<i>Time allowed</i>	2 hours

Instructions: Do not write any answer on the examination papers.
Write all your answers in the booklets provided.
Answer any three questions.

This paper is not to be opened until permission has been given by the invigilator.

Question 1

- a. What is polysemy? What is homonymy? How is polysemy different from homonymy? Do not forget to include examples in your discussion. (6 marks)
- b. Explain the difference between phrasal verbs and prepositional verbs. Give appropriate examples. (5 marks)
- c. Explain, with appropriate examples, the difference between denotation and connotation (4 marks)
- d. Explain the lexical relationship of hyponymy. Give three examples (5 marks)

Question 2

Often meaning has been seen as the sum of referential, structural and contextual meaning. With examples to illustrate, define and explain these three types of meaning. Compare this typology with other possible ways of looking at and subdividing meaning.

Question 3

Complete the following idioms. Then match the completed sentences with the sentences underneath (to express the same meaning): (20 marks)

1. He has a ... of gold.
 2. He is as ... as nails.
 3. She was ... off the mark and got there first.
 4. She was a bit ... off the mark and arrived too late.
 5. He is a fast ...
 6. He is a bit of a slow-...
 7. She is very ...-of-the-road.
 8. She is a bit of an ...-ball.
 9. He is a bit over the ... when you first meet him.
 10. He is rather a ... fish when you first meet him.
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- a. She is rather eccentric.
 - b. She was not quick enough.
 - c. He is very exaggerated in his behaviour.
 - d. He always takes ages to do everything.
 - e. He is a wonderfully kind person.
 - f. She is rather moderate in her views and behaviour.
 - g. He is very tough and is not easily moved by anything.
 - h. She reacted quickly and benefited from it.
 - i. He is very formal and a bit unfriendly.
 - j. He always does everything in super-quick time.

Question 4

Write short notes to define the following terms. Include two examples per term. (20)

- a. lexical words
- b. clipping
- c. acronyms
- d. metalanguage
- e. collocation
- f. clichés
- g. a learners' dictionary
- h. lexicography
- i. blending
- j. homophones

Question 5

- a. Define componential analysis and state its use in lexical research. (10)
- b. Make a componential analysis, presented in the form of a matrix, of the following lexemes, using only binary components: walk, run, crawl, sprint, jog. (10)

Question 6

Fixed expressions often pose problems to non-native speakers of English. List the different types of fixed expressions and show how they are treated in various dictionaries. (20)

Question 7

The English language has expanded its vocabulary by various means. With the aid of examples, discuss five (5) linguistic processes that have been used in the expansion of the English vocabulary. (20)

Question 8

With the aid of examples from English, discuss whether or not we are justified to regard dictionaries as having authority in matters of language usage of ALL kinds. (20)

Question 9

Imagine you have been insulted. Identify

- a. the linguistic structure of the insult
- b. the intention behind the insult

- c. the tone of the speaker/utterer of the insult
- d. the symbolic characteristics entailed in the insult
- e. the degree/power of the insult

Also show how you would

- f. react/retort in self-defence.

(20)

Total: /60