

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**

**JULY 2007**

**COURSE TITLE: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS**

**COURSE CODE: ENG 403**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- i) This question paper consists of two sections and four questions
- ii) Answer any two questions, one from each section
- iii) Each question is worth 20 marks
- iv) Claims made should be well substantiated by means of examples.

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

**SECTION A – ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION.**

**QUESTION 1 – LANGUAGE PLANNING AND POLICY**

The Department of Education Curriculum Policy in South Africa and The Bill of Rights Sections 29 and 30 state that:

- i) Everyone has a right to education in an official language of his choice where reasonable possible
- ii) All individuals/learners have a right to use their own language

And

One of the Department of Education's goals is to maintain home language(s) while providing access to effective acquisition of additional languages.

In Swaziland, statements that have been extracted from official documents from The Ministry of Education that may be translated into a language policy spell it out clearly that English and siSwati are official languages of the country even in education. It is evident from the above that schools are the most fertile grounds where the parity/equity between the official languages could be cultivated. However, this is not so. In your opinion, why do you think South Africans and Swazis alike attach so much value on English language and begin to invest time, money and energy in learning it at the detriment of their own mother tongues? What do you think can be done to reverse the process? [20]

**QUESTION 2 – BILINGUALISM/MULTILINGUALISM**

Using the accommodation theory, discuss the reasons behind code switching and code mixing in any conversation. [20]

## **SECTION B – ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION**

### **QUESTION 3 – STANDARDISATION/ STANDARD LANGUAGES**

Insisting on notions of correct and perfect English contradicts the concept that languages are equal. Discuss. Your answer should show that you know the major issues about Standard English such as

- what it is
  - why we need it
  - how it is used in different contexts
- [20]

### **QUESTION 4 – PIDGINS AND CREOLES**

According to Msimang C.T. (1987) Tsotsitaal is a contact medium used by blacks in South African cities. It is a form of Pidgin that serves as a lingua franca alongside English between peoples of various ethnic groups. Today Tsotsitaal is in the process of creolization. However, some people believe that pidginized varieties of a language(s) are corrupt and ungrammatical. They indicate that their speakers are lazy or inferior. Using Tsotsitaal and Fanakalo in South Africa how might you try to show people who hold such belief how wrong they are.

[20]