

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**Final examination**

**2007-2008**

*Title of paper* Language meaning and use

*Course number* Eng203/IDE-Eng203

*Time allowed* 2 hours

*Instructions:* Do not write any answer on the examination papers.

Write all your answers in the booklets provided.

Answer three questions.

Question one is compulsory.

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

ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND TWO OTHERS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION.

Question 1

- a. What is strict synonymy? (3 marks)
- b. Distinguish between gradable antonyms, complementary antonyms and converses or relational antonyms (6 marks)
- c. Explain, with appropriate examples, the difference between denotation and connotation (2 marks)
- d. Explain the lexical relationship of hyponymy. Give three examples (3 marks)
- e. When one knows a language, one knows how to react to the different speech genres within that language. Briefly discuss this statement drawing examples from
  - (i) jokes
  - (ii) disclaimers
  - (iii) retorts

(6 marks)

SECTION 1 – LANGUAGE MEANING

ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

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

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 4

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)

SECTION 2 – LANGUAGE USE

ANSWER ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION

Question 6

- a. A number of words in English have originated from the names of people or from

place names. Explain the meaning and origin of the following words: (10 marks)

- a. Herculean effort
- b. Platonic friendship
- c. Teddy bear
- d. Jersey cow
- e. Caesarean section

b. Use appropriate prefixes and suffixes to construct suitable words for the instructions in brackets. (5 marks)

- a. I have ... my English homework. (placed incorrectly)
- b. This shows a good degree of ... on my part. (not mature)
- c. My error is ... (not able to be redeemed), and so I will have to make up for my ... action. (not responsible)
- d. In addition, my teacher says that she is ... (not satisfied) with my illegible handwriting.

c. Distinguish homonyms from homophones and homographs. Give at least one appropriate example of each. (5 marks)

#### Question 7

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 8

- a. Use the following binomials in a sentence to clearly show their meaning (10 marks):
  1. part and parcel
  2. ranting and raving
  3. rack and ruin
  4. prim and proper

5. rough and ready
6. leaps and bounds
7. to and fro
8. out and about
9. sink or swim
10. give or take

b. Some binomials do not have *and* in the middle. What do they have? (5 marks)

1. sooner ... later
2. all ... nothing
3. back ... front
4. take it ... leave it
5. slowly ... surely

c. What are similes? (3 marks) Give two examples (2 marks)

#### QUESTION 9

The cooperative principle as described by Paul Grice is intended as a description of people's normal behaviour in conversations, not as a prescriptive command. How do you think this principle aids in conversations? (20 marks)

Total:            /60