

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND THE INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE
EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
2007/8

COURSE TITLE: CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS

COURSE CODE: ENG 303

TIME ALLOCATED: 2HRS

TOTAL MARKS: 60 MARKS

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN ALL**
- 2. DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL YOUR INVIGILATOR INSTRUCTS YOU TO DO SO**

Question 1

Give definitions of the following terms and give examples of each:

- (a) Negative face
- (b) Discourse marker
- (c) Speech acts
- (d) Positive politeness strategy
- (e) Turn taking

(30)

Question 2

- (a) What strategies are open to a speaker whose 'turn' in a conversation is threatened by interruptions?
- (b) What are adjacency pairs? Give three examples and explain their role in a constructed short conversation.

(30)

Question 3

From the story below, answer the following questions:

- a) What does *man* really mean (in the last utterance?)
- b) Who will lose face? Why?
- c) What kind of threat is that? Explain.

A woman writing a post-office desk was approached by a man whose hand was in a cast. "Pardon me." said the man, "but could you please address this postcard for me?" The woman gladly did so, agreeing also to write a short message and sign for him.

"There," said the woman smiling, "Is there anything else I can do for you?"

"Yes," the man replied. "At the end could you put, 'PS: Please excuse the handwriting'?"

(30)

Question 4

Read the following discourse pieces

Spoken

Mandy: Hi Paul haven't seen you mate! Yo alright?

Ken: Oh yeh – Hey ther's this guy I was telling you about and he's really old and he's got this dog like a really ugly dog and he's walks in here?

Mandy: Do you know his name?

Written:

Dear Mandy,

A rather old gentleman with a terribly ugly dog walked through the front gate.

Using the above as reference, discuss the differences and similarities between spoken and written discourse.

(30)