

THE UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES/INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
MAIN EXAMINATION 2008/2009

COURSE: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS
COURSE CODE: ENG 403
DURATION: TWO HOURS
INSTRUCTION: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS, ONE FROM EACH SECTION
EACH QUESTION IS WORTH THIRTY [30] MARKS

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

SECTION A – MICRO-SOCIOLINGUISTICS

QUESTION 1

According to Aitchison(1995:118) ‘adopting a lingua franca is not the only solution to the problem of communication between groups of people speaking different languages. In some cases, a pidgin, which is viewed by many as a corrupt and ungrammatical form of language, develops’.

- i) With the aid of examples discuss the concepts of Pidginization and Creolization and
- ii) Show the extent to which pidgins and creoles are (if they are) indeed corrupt and ungrammatical forms of language.

QUESTION 2

Standard English is, today, used as a lingua franca in many countries around the world but the way it is spoken in the different countries differs according to the context of use. With the aid of examples from Africa and further afield, discuss the factors responsible for the variation in the English language

SECTION B – MACRO-SOCIOLINGUISTICS

QUESTION 3

Language policies are designed such that they achieve certain goals, hence the different directions they take. Swaziland does not have a language policy as yet, but there are documents on language issues that can be translated into policy. Language practitioners with the assistance of the European Union are working on Swaziland’s language policy issues. Should their suggestions and the recommendations made by the different stakeholders be considered, what in your opinion will be the direction taken by our language policy? Support your answer by means of examples.

QUESTION 4

Language planning policies advocated by most African countries upon attainment of independence saw foreign languages being adopted as the medium of communication for political expediency (at the expense of local languages).What, in your opinion, do you think can be done to remedy a situation where language policies are indirectly advocating for the genocide of local languages .