

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES/INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION 2008/09**

**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-SOCLINGUISTICS**

### **QUESTION 1**

No linguistic system is purely homogeneous. English is no exception to this. With the aid of examples, discuss the social, contextual and linguistic factors that influence language variation.

### **QUESTION 2**

To what extent can one measure dialect/language using the following yardsticks:

- i) geographical location
- ii) nationality
- iii) mutual intelligibility

## **SECTION B – MACRO-SOCLINGUISTICS**

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

### **QUESTION 3**

With the aid of examples, discuss the factors responsible for and the agents of the standardization process of any language in a linguistic community. In your opinion, do you think the factors you have discussed above were responsible for the standardization of the SiSwati language?

### **QUESTION 4**

The language situation in most African countries is such that the local languages are under siege, whilst the foreign languages are held in high esteem and to them is attached an instrumental value. Why is this so?