

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATION 2010

TITLE OF COURSE : SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

COURSE CODE : E3P2

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS :

- 1. This paper consists of SIX questions.**
- 2. Question 1 is COMPULSORY.**
- 3. Choose TWO other questions from question 2 to 5.**
- 4. Each question carries 20 marks.**
- 4. Good Language will attract credit.**
- 5. This paper consists of 3 pages, cover page included.**

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QUESTION 1 - COMPULSORY

Critically examine the criteria used in identifying words in the English language.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 2

What are the differences between the following pairs of concepts?

- i) Connotation and denotation
- ii) Homophones and homographs
- iii) Converse and binary antonyms
- iv) Lexical and structural ambiguity
- v) Implicature and reference

[20 marks]

QUESTION 3

Discuss the extent to which dictionaries have authority in matters of language usage of all types.

[15 marks]

QUESTION 4

- a) Briefly discuss the process of compounding. [5marks]
- b) What parts of speech have been merged to form the following compounds?
 - i) shredded carrots
 - ii) mind-blowing
 - iii) blackout

[3 marks]

- c) With the aid of examples, discuss two common problems associated with compound words. [4marks]

c) Give three examples to prove that although two-word compounds are the most common in English, cases of a combination of more than two is possible.

[3marks]

d) Anyone who speaks a language has an amazing capacity to reason about the meanings of a text. With that capacity reason out five meanings entailed in the sentence below.

I can't untie that knot with one hand

[5marks]

QUESTION 5

Speaking is a collaborative act. Discuss three things that dictate how one structure talk and also enable people to understand how meaning is constructed in different situations.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 6

Write short notes on each of the following:

i) Retorts

[5marks]

ii) Disclaimers

[10 marks]

iii) Rebuffs

[5marks]