

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION – MAY 2011**

**TITLE OF PAPER: LANGUAGE MEANING AND USE**

**COURSE CODE : ENG 203**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS :**

- i) This paper has four questions.**
- ii) Answer three questions only.**
- iii) Question 1 is compulsory.**
- iv) Good language will attract credit.**
- v) This paper consists of four pages, cover page included.**

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

## QUESTION 1

a) With the aid of examples, write short notes on the following relations involving word meanings.

- i) polysemy
- ii) homophony
- iii) homography
- iv) homonymy
- v) tautology
- vi) ambiguity [3marks each]

b) Three semantic relations among sentences were covered in this course: paraphrase, entailment and contradiction. Which of these relations is exemplified in each of the following pairs of sentences? Give reasons for your answers.

- i) I saw Terry at the anniversary party.
- ii) It was Terry that I saw at the anniversary party. [2 marks]
  
- iii) Jim is Mary's husband.
- iv) Mary is married. [2 marks]
  
- v) My pet cobra likes the taste of chocolate fudge.
- vi) My pet cobra finds chocolate fudge tasty. [2 marks]
  
- vii) Vera is an only child.
- viii) Olga is Vera's sister. [2 marks]
  
- ix) It is fifty kilometres to the nearest service station.
- x) The nearest service station is fifty kilometres away. [2 marks]
  
- xi) My cousin Bryan teaches at the adult College for a living.
- xii) My cousin Bryan is a teacher. [2 marks]

## QUESTION 2

Each of the sentences a - d below contains a conversational implicature.

- i) What do you understand by conversational implicature? [2 marks ]
- ii) What is the implicature for each example? [10 marks]
- iii) For each example, which maxim of the cooperative principle is relevant to the implicature or is violated by the implicature?
  - a) No comment.
  - b) My lips are sealed.
  - c) Sihle : I hope you brought the bread and milk  
Sipho: ah I brought the bread!
  - d) Sihle: Did you invite Dela and Zola?  
Sipho: I invited Dela.

[8 marks]

## QUESTION 3

- i) What are the differences between intention and extension. [10 marks]
- ii) Describe the intention and extension of each of the following phrases:
  - a) The president of the United States of America [2marks]
  - b) The King of Moscow [2marks]
  - c) A dialect of English [2 marks]
  - d) Women in leadership positions [ 2 marks]
  - e) King Mswati III's emakhosikati [ 2marks]

#### QUESTION 4

Each of the NPs in the following sentences has a thematic role that represents the part that its referent plays in the situation described by the sentence. Label the thematic role of each NP in these sentences.

- a) Sphesihle e-mailed the draft proposal from Illinois.
- b) The Vice Chancellor entertained the dignitaries in the University lounge.
- c) The businessmen chased the thief from the shop to the nearby forest.
- d) The boys stole the treasure.
- e) I wish he had written me a letter.

[20 marks]