

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION – JULY 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 three pages, cover page included.**

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

QUESTION 1

- i) With the aid of examples, briefly discuss the different types of ambiguity.

[9 marks]

- ii) Disambiguate the following sentences.

- a) Zethu cannot bring a salad.
- b) Sanele teased the dog with a stick.
- c) He dislikes visiting relatives.
- d) This is a heavy book.
- e) The team's biggest fans are in the cafeteria.
- f) We were encouraged to join the contest yesterday.
- g) Everyone does not love chocolate.
- h) The police were ordered to stop drinking at midnight.
- i) It is not advisable to take aspirin and alcohol after a meal.
- j) We shall be discussing violence on TV.
- k) The SRC president is still young.

[11 marks]

QUESTION 2

Each of the sentences or phrases below contains a different type of presupposition.

- a) Mary's brother bought three horses.
- b) I'm glad that it is over.
- c) Everybody knows that Ian is gay.
- d) Everybody doesn't know that Ian is gay.
- e) Mary's dog isn't cute.
- f) The king of Swaziland.
- g) You are late again.

- h) Where did you buy the bakkie?
- i) We imagined we were in Hawaii.
- j) I wasn't aware that he was married.

- i) What is the nature of the presupposition in each of the sentences. [10 marks]
- ii) What is presupposed in each of the presuppositions? [10 marks]

QUESTION 3

Which conversational maxims is the producer of the following utterances wary of?

Explain the reason for your answer.

- i) I may be mistaken, but I think I saw a wedding ring on her finger.
- ii) As you probably know, I hate the limelight.
- iii) Not to change the subject, but is this related to the seminar?
- iv) This may be a bit confused, but I remember being in a car.
- v) I am studying linguistics and I've completed some of the required modules.

[20 marks]

QUESTION 4

Identify the thematic roles of the noun phrases in the following sentences.

- a) The Scholarship Board transferred the outstanding students from the University of Essex to the University of Edinburgh.
- b) The Barbarians practised at Twickenham.
- c) Terry gave the keys to Mary.
- d) The magician changed the ball into a rabbit.

[20 marks]