

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

**TITLE OF PAPER :** PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS

**COURSE CODE :** ENG 403

**TIME ALLOWED :** TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS :**

- i) This paper consists of four (4) questions.
- ii) Answer TWO (2) questions- ONE from each SECTION.
- iii) Each question is worth thirty (30) marks.
- iv) Good English will attract credit.
- v) This paper consists of 3 pages –cover page included.

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

## SECTION A – MICRO-SOCIOLINGUISTICS

### QUESTION 1

In a diglossic situation 'each variety has its own specialised functions and each is viewed differently by those who are aware of both' ( Wardhaugh 1986: 88):

- i) Distinguish clearly between bilingualism and diglossia. ( 10 marks)
- ii) Would you agree that the concept of diglossia constitutes a social, cultural and political oppression of a people? (20 marks)

### QUESTION 2

In many black urban areas in South Africa (and Swaziland) a distinct street creole has emerged. It is called isjita-scamtho, flaitaal or tsotsitaal. In Papua New Guinea there is the Papua New Guinea creole and in the USA the Louisiana creole.

- i) Explain the processes of Pidginisation and Creolisation. (5marks)
- ii) What do you understand by a creole continuum? (3marks)
- iii) With the aid of examples, discuss the extent to which it is true that pidgins may evolve into creoles. (5 marks)
- iv) What challenges do learners who speak a creole face in both the education and judicial systems? (17 marks)

## **SECTION B – MACRO-SOCIOLINGUISTICS**

### **QUESTION 3**

‘Although all languages [in Africa] are recognised in theory, in practice Standard English is the dominant language of parliament, government, business, the media and public life. Many people, however, think that if English is to become the lingua franca of...Africa, it should itself become Africanised. It should not measure itself against the standards set in Britain or the United States of America, but rather adopt itself to the linguistic realities of this [continent]’ (1997:41 Learning about English)

What are your own views?

(30 marks)

### **QUESTION 4**

Some people believe the spread of English the world over is fundamentally an imperialistic process. Others believe that its spread is determined by the demand for it.

What are your own views with regard to English as an international language?

(30 marks)