

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DECEMBER 2013

TITLE OF PAPER: LANGUGAE MEANING AND USE

COURSE CODE: ENG 203/ IDE-ENG 203

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. This paper has four (4) questions.**
- 2. Question 1 is compulsory.**
- 3. Choose one other question from Questions 2 to Question 4.**
- 4. Question 1 is worth thirty (30) marks and Questions 2-4 are worth twenty (20) marks each.**
- 5. Presentation of answers should follow linguistic conventions where necessary, and good language use will attract credit.**

This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator.

QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY)

Read the following passage entitled "Editor's Note" and answer the questions that will follow.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I've spent the past weekend watching the news in horror, channel-hopping to find out more about the Kenyan mall hostage situation. As I write this, at least 68 people are confirmed dead and many others are being held hostage.

This shopping centre- Westgate Mall- is very popular with tourists. My husband and two boys shopped there when they visited Kenya in July. We have friends, colleagues and even some family living in Kenya and our thoughts and prayers go out to our Kenyan brothers during this ordeal.

Another shocking story this past week was that of a 16-year-old Vanderbiljpark boy who was bullied and forced to drink urine by some white boys at his school. I'm from Vanderbiljpark and I know the school in question. Because of its proud rugby history, it is one of the few schools my parents considered when they wanted to enroll my brother in school but they were advised against it. Institutionalised racism was one of the most common complaints black parents were forced to make there.

Luckily, there is another excellent "rugby school" nearby where my brother was accepted and thrived until he finished matric. But his years there were not without racial niggles from parents and even learners, which we managed because my brothe loved it there.

My point is that we are not yet out of the racist woods in South Africa- far from it. Whether be it white on black or black on white, the fact remains that we live in one of the most inherently racist countries. Obviously, apartheid is to blame for most of it but apartheid ended 20 years ago. The boys who committed these acts are under 18. So who, if not the parents gave them the impression it would be okay to do such a thing?

(Passage taken from *Drum Magazine* of October, 3, 2013)

Questions

- (a) Briefly explain the situational context of this text. [5 marks]
- (b) (i) Define the term "deixis" [3 marks]
- (ii) For each type, identify and discuss three linguistic structures from the passage that are deictic elements and explain how context is important in their interpretation:
- Time [6 marks]

- Person [6 marks]
- Place [6 marks]

(c) Write four connotations of the word "apartheid". You are free to draw some of these connotations from the passage, or think of your own connotations.

[4 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

(a) Discuss the following concepts. Illustrate your answer using examples:

- (i) Entailment [2 marks]
- (ii) Pressupposition [2 marks]
- (iii) Implicature [2 marks]
- (iv) Connotation [2 marks]
- (v) Denotation [2 marks]

(b) Write the pressuppositions that are appropriate for the following sentences:

- (i) My husband and two boys shopped there when they visited Kenya in July. [2 marks]
- (ii) Because of its proud rugby history, it is one of the few schools my parents considered when they had to enroll my brother in school. [2 marks]
- (iii) Whether be it black on white or white on black , the fact remains that we live in one of the most inherently racist countries. [2 marks]
- (iv) John does not write poems anymore. [2 marks]
- (v) Have you stopped exercising reguarly? [2 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

(a) Two relations involving word meanings are synonymy and antonymy. Which relation is illustrated in each of the pairs of words below?

- | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|---|-------------|-----------|
| (i) | Casual | : | informal | [1 mark] |
| (ii) | Intelligent | : | stupid | [1 mark] |
| (iii) | Intelligent | : | able | [1 mark] |
| (iv) | Flog | : | whip | [1 mark] |
| (v) | Drunk | : | sober | [1 mark] |
| (vi) | Flourish | : | thrive | [1 mark] |
| (vii) | Uncle | : | aunt | [1 mark] |
| (viii) | Lend | : | borrow | [1 mark] |
| (ix) | Cool | : | chilly | [1 mark] |
| (x) | Stylish | : | fashionable | [1 mark] |

(b) (i) Define the term, "ambiguity". [2 marks]

(ii) Discuss the two types of ambiguity. Illustrate your answer using examples.

[8 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

(a) Which of the two semantic relations, polysemy and homonymy is exemplified by the italicized words?

- (i) The dog tried to *lap* the water.
The cat sat on my *lap*.
- (ii) He gave her a diamond *ring*.
His glass left a *ring* on the table.
- (iii) The Prime Minister did not want to comment about *circular* 1 during the press conference .
The wind was making *circular* movements.

- (iv) The dog had no *bark*.
Don't remove the *bark* from the tree.
- (v) The boys will *bear* the consequences of their delinquent behaviour.
Your patience and hardwork will soon *bear* you some fruits.

[10 marks]

(b) With the aid of examples, discuss the following concepts related to Semantics and Pragmatics:

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------|------------|
| (i) | Idiom | [2 marks] |
| (ii) | Social meaning | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | Referential meaning | [2 marks] |
| (iv) | Speech act | [2 marks] |
| (v) | Face Threatening Act | [2 marks] |

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]