

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
MAY 2014

TITLE OF PAPER: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE: ENG 403/ IDE-ENG 403

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)

(a) Wardhaugh (2006: 18) posits two opposing views on the relationship between language and society. On the one hand, he says, "the influence between language and society is bidirectional", - none can exist without the presence of the other. On the other hand, he adopts what he terms Chomsky's "asocial" approach to language - that there is no relationship between language and society. Discuss in detail the two views and state your point of view.

[15 MARKS]

(b) Name any two dialects of English and explain how each differ from the other in the following areas:

- | | | |
|-------|---------------|-----------|
| (i) | Grammar | [3 marks] |
| (ii) | Vocabulary | [3 marks] |
| (iii) | Pronunciation | [3 marks] |
| (iv) | Spelling | [3 marks] |
| (v) | Punctuation | [3 marks] |

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

Using the notion of dialect continua and political influence, discuss the loopholes of the criterion "mutual intelligibility" in distinguishing between a dialect and a language.

[20 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

With an aid of examples, explain *how* the following factors cause language variation:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| (a) Physical location | [5 marks] |
| (b) Occupation | [5 marks] |

(c) Leisure activities [5 marks]

(d) Social class [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

(a) Explain the concept of borrowing as an effect of bilingualism on language use.

[4 marks]

(b) Discuss the following types of borrowing. Use examples to illustrate your answer.

(i) Pure loanword [4 marks]

(ii) Loanblend [4 marks]

(iii) Loanshift – creation [4 marks]

(iv) Loanshift - extension [4 marks]

[20 MARKS]