UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES/INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

MAIN EXAMINATION – 2015

COURSE TITLE :   CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS

COURSE CODE: ENG 303

TIME   :   TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR QUESTIONS.

         ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN TOTAL.

         ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER

         ALL THE QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 30 MARKS EACH

         FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE TRANSCRIPTION CONVENTIONS COMMON TO CONVERSATION ANALYTIC RESEARCH MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF MARKS

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

QUESTION 1 - COMPULSORY

With close reference to the stories below, answer the questions that follow.

STORY 1

A child of five enters a room where his mother and another woman are talking. The child tugs on his mother's skirt for attention and, without waiting for her to respond, he begins talking to her. The mother becomes irritated and scolds the child for interrupting while she is talking.

STORY 2

Five college students are sitting in a dorm room talking. One of the five students has been talking for about ten minutes when another member of the group says, "Jim, why don't you shut up! Z can't get a word in edgewise."

a) In each of the preceding stories, what is the central figure guilty of violating? [2]

b) In each case, who is the trouble source? [2]

c) In each case, who repairs the trouble source? [2]

d) In each case, what is the nature of the offenders' trouble source? [2]

e) In each case, what is the nature of the current offended speakers' responses to the offenders [2]

f) What two explanations account for the nature of the offended speakers' response in each case? [4]

g) What two existing rules were the offenders reminded of? [4]

h) What do you think was the result of the sanctioning action by the offended to the offender? [2]

i) With the aid of examples, briefly discuss the sequential organization of repair [10]

= **30 MARKS**

QUESTION 2

With close reference to competitiveness and non-competitiveness in overlapping talk, analyse the following extracts. Your analysis should clearly indicate the differences between these two conversation phenomena.

EXTRACT 1

```
L1   Tbose   :      [Its realy (x) because like I said
L2   Amanda:        [OH it's it was a shock for me because=
L3                   =its in the news everyday [for
L4   Tbose  :                                 [I don't read the news]
L5   Amanda:                                      [for many days]
```

EXTRACT 2

```
L1Jean:      but its really hard to speak it
L2   it's [just] no offence but just a really awful language for an=
L3Ashley: [yeah]
L4Jean   :   =[English speaker]
L5Ashley:      [mh   mh   mh   ]
L6Jean:I think er for certain European>obviously< certain European
L7       languages [it 's] not so bad'
L8 Ashley:        [yeah ]
```

=30 MARKS

QUESTION 3

With the aid of appropriate examples, discuss the differences between Chomskyan linguistics and the ethnography of communication.

= 15 marks

With the aid of a speech event, discuss the parameters of a communicatve event as proposed by Dell Hymes (1974).

=15 marks

QUESTION 4

With close reference to extracts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 below, discuss the sequence-closing thirds
oh, okay, and assessment.   Each sequence-closing third is worth 10 marks.

EXTRACT 3

```
L1 Jam:    Yeh. Uh -I dis wantuh know de person.That's all. You

L2         point me out to im someti:me,

L3Vic:     I will.

L4 Jam     A:lright

L5 Vic:    I wi[ll.

L6 Jam        [En I w-e (hh)h! Alright, then that's all I

L7            [wantuh know.

L8 Vic:    [ (Alright.)

L9         Okay.[ (I will).

L10 Jam:      [Alright. Becau:se, its insu:red aneway,

L11        when I call de office, dey'll send a man up eh

L12        to put that glass I:N. . .
```

EXTRACT 4

```
L1 Don : Shall I pour it out?

L2 Joh : No I rih- I don't want that much. Rea[lly.=

L3 Don :                                      [Ok okay.

L4 Joh  : =I jus' wannid 'I bit (                           ).

L5 Don: Okay

L6    (0.5)
```

EXTRACT 5

```
L1 Ali:    You wan' me bring you anything?

L2         (0.4)

L3 Bet:    No: no: nothing.

L4 Ali:    AW:kay
```

EXTRACT 6

```
L1 Ava:   [.hh] How'v you bee:n.

L2 Bee:   .hh Oh:: survi:ving I guess, hh [h

L3 Ava:                                    [That's good, =

L4        =how's (Bob),

L5 Bee:   He's fine

L6 Ava:   Tha::t's goo:d,

L7 Bee:   (Bu::t.)=/ Goo:d.)=

L8        ='n how's school going.

L9 Ava:   Oh s:ame old shit.

L10 Bee:  Shhhh!  hh t! .hh

L11 Ava:  I av [a  lotta     t]ough cou:rses.

L12 Bee:       [ Uh really?]

L13       Oh I c'n ima:gine. =< wh'tche tol' me whatchu ta:kin.
```

EXTRACT 7

```
L1 Don:   I:s this ai:med accurate enou: gh?

L2        (0.5)

L3 Joh:   Yes it's aimed et the table

L4 Don:   Grea:t

L5        (1.0)
```

EXTRACT 8

```
L1 Nan:   .hhh Dz he av iz own apa:rt[mint?]

L2 Hyl:                              [.hhhh] Yea:h, =

L3 Nan:   =Oh:,

L4        (1.0)

L5        How didju git iz number,

L6        (.)

L7 Hyl:   I (h) (.) c(h)alled infermation 'n San
```