

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DECEMBER 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) Read the conversation below and answer the questions that will follow.

Doreen: Did you attend the function last night?

Kelly: How could I have missed it? I enjoyed Mr William's speech.

Lorraine: As a matter of fact, Mr William's English is excellent.

Doreen: I couldn't agree with you more. But how is his Afrikaans?

Lorraine: I honestly don't know, because I haven't heard him speak in Afrikaans.
However, his Portuguese is very good.

Doreen: So he speaks all three languages. I envy him.

(Conversation taken from Bock and Mheta (2013: 294-295))

Questions

- (i) Explain why the interlocutors have used the possessive pronoun "his" when talking about each of the languages that Mr William speaks. [3 marks]
- (ii) What is the name of this variety of language? [2 marks]
- (iii) Discuss any three things that characterize this language variety. [6 marks]
- (iv) Discuss any two factors that can shape this kind of language. [4 marks]

(b) (i) Explain what is meant by "English as a mother tongue" (EMT) and "English as a second language" (ESL). [2 marks]

(ii) Distinguish between EMT and ESL in terms of:

- Age of learning/ acquisition [2 marks]
- Environment of exposure [2 marks]
- Proficiency of the speakers [2 marks]

- Contexts of use [2 marks]
 - Characteristics (phonological and grammatical) [4 marks]
- (iii) Give one example of an EMT country and one ESL country. [1 mark]

[Total: 30 marks]

QUESTION 2

- (a) According to Edwards (1994:1) in Durk et al (date not stated), "most of the world's population speaks more than one language, but most of the population in western cultures are monolingual in one of the "big languages" in spite of being exposed to other languages, mainly in the school context". Explain why this is the case. Give five reasons. [10 marks]
- (b) Discuss any three reasons why being a bilingual/ multilingual has become a normal and remarkable necessity for the majority in the world today. [10 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

- (a) With the aid of examples, discuss the following processes resulting from language contact:
- (i) Language maintenance [4 marks]
 - (ii) Language shift [4 marks]
 - (iii) Language death [4marks]
- (b) Explain what is meant by "language planning". [2 marks]
- (c) Briefly explain how language planning can act as an intervention to the processes in (a (ii) and (iii) above. [6 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

Discuss in detail how views towards specific linguistic expressions reflect the attitude of a culture or society towards the actions and behaviours of the language users. **[20 marks]**