

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES/INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

MAIN EXAMINATION – MAY 2016

COURSE TITLE : CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS

COURSE CODE : ENG 303

TIME : TWO HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR
QUESTIONS.**

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN TOTAL;

QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER

ALL 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

According to Reisman's (1974) talk in Antigua in the West Indies is a different kind of activity. When someone enters a casual group, no opening is necessarily made for him; nor is there any pause or other formal signal that he is being included. No one appears to pay any attention. When he feels ready he will simply begin speaking. He may be heard, he may not. That is, the other voices may eventually stop and listen, or some of them may not; eyes may or may not turn to him. If he is not heard the first time he will try again and yet again (often with the same remark). Eventually he will be heard or give up.

In such a system it is also true that there is no particular reason to find out what is going on or who is talking before one starts oneself. There is little pressure to relate one's subject to any state of the group. Therefore it is also quite reasonable to arrive talking, so to speak, and the louder one does so the greater the chances that one is heard. (Adapted from Wardhaugh, 1998, p. 244)

Based on the principle that turns in conversation are resources which, like goods in an economy, are distributed in systematic ways among speakers, discuss how talk in Antigua violates conversational structure.

QUESTION 2

Below is an extract from a telephone call made by one sister to another who lives nearby.

L1 Vic: Hey hey, (.) would ju do me a favour? he heh

L2 Kar: e(hh) depends on the favour:: go ahead,

L3 Vic: didjer mom tell you I called earlier?

L4 Kar: No she didn't

L5 (0.5)

L6 Vic: Well I called. (.) [hhh]

L7 Kar: [Uhuh]

L8 Vic: >=I ca:llled um to see if you want to uh (0.4) c'm over

L9 En watch, the Classics Theater.

L10 (0.3)

L11 Vic: Sandy 'n Tom 'n I, =

L12 Kar: >= She Sto [ops t'Conquer?

L13 Vic: [() -

L14 (0.4)

L15 Vic: >Yeh

L16 (0.3)

L17 Kar: > Mom js asked me t' watch it with her, h=

L18 Vic: = Oh. Okay, it's alright

L19 (0.3)

With close reference to the excerpt above, identify and discuss the expansion sequences used in the interaction, showing the relevance of each that you have identified in the sequences in which they appear. (30 marks)

QUESTION 3

With close reference to the interaction below,

- a) Discuss the mechanism for distributing turns between participants. (8 marks)
- b) Discuss the sequential organization of repair. (18 marks)
- c) Explain the difference between overlapping talk and an interruption. (4 marks)

L1 Zee: I'm havin' some people to dinner Saturday

L2 and would really like you t' com

L3 Tee: Saturday or Su[nday?]

L4 Zee: [ah .h] old age, Sunday

L5 Tee: yeah Sunday

L6 Zee: and are you coming?

L7 Tee: sure, can't miss your spicy dishes

L8 Zee: Is it Drum magazine ju' readin'?

L9 Tee: no, ah yes, it's Drum, this months'

L10 Zee: Oh, .hh eh guess what?

L11 Tee: mh hh what?

L12 Zee: my husband invited this friend of his from Malawi for dinner last month

L13 Mr Kepu-[Ki-kepu], ah

L14 Tee: Mr [KApu]

L15 Zee: Yeah that one

L16 Tee: it turns out he °CAN'T° join us this time around

L17 Zee: He °turned down° your invite?

L18 Tee: °No°, he is said to be suffering from °proper° cancer=

L19 Zee =(laughing) PO:STRA:TE cancer!!

QUESTION 4

Turn taking is the keystone for every conversation. With close reference to extracts A and B below, discuss the differences between competitive and non-competitive overlaps in talk.

A

L1 Siya : [Its really (xx) because like I said]

L2 Sethu: [Oh its it was a shock for me because=

L3 =it's in the news everyday [for

L4 Siya: [I don't read the news

L5 Sethu: [many days]

B

L1 Teb: but its really hard to speak it

L2 It's [just] no offence but just a really awful language for an=

L3 Jeb: [yeah]

L4 Teb: = [English speaker]

L5 Jeb: [mh mh mh]

L6 Teb: I think er for certain European >obviously< certain European

L7 la-languages [its] not so bad

L8 Jeb: [yeah]

.....**END OF MAIN EXAMINATION**.....