

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES/INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**MAIN EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2016**

**COURSE TITLE : PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS**

**COURSE CODE : ENG 403**

**DURATION : TWO HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS : THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF TWO SECTIONS AND FOUR QUESTIONS.**

**ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN TOTAL; ONE FROM EACH SECTION**

**ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 30 MARKS EACH**

**FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE LINGUISTIC CONVENTIONS MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF MARKS**

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

## SECTION A

### QUESTION 1

- a) With the aid of examples, critically discuss the possible criteria used to determine that, whereas variety X is a language, variety Y is only a dialect of a language. [10]
- b) Languages, like all living organisms, are not rigid, sacred or immemorially true and perfect as is suggested by prescriptivists. What are your views? [15]
- c) To what extent is language one's 'second skin'? [5]

### QUESTION 2

- a) Differentiate between the concepts of bilingualism and diglossia. [15]
- b) Wardhaugh (2006) describes the concept of bilingualism as a Trojan horse, which is initially attractive but ultimately fatal. To what extent do you agree with him? [15]

## SECTION B

### QUESTION 3

- a) What is Standard English? [5]
- b) Kachru (1986) argues that promoting one variety of English all over the world is an idealisation. ... Any language dubbed standard only exists in the name. What are your views in relation to English as a global lingua franca? [10]
- c) Using English and the indigenous African languages as examples, discuss the extent to which language planning is tantamount to planning inequality in a language society [15]

### QUESTION 4

Gumperz (1982a) claims that in conversational code-switching 'participants immersed in the interaction itself are often quite unaware which code is used at any one time.'

- a) As a bilingual/multilingual speaker, to what extent do you agree with Gumperz's claim? [10]
- b) What factors influence you to switch between/ among codes in your speech? [10]
- c) Code-switching and borrowing are different phenomena. Distinguish between the two. [10]