

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES/INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION – JULY, 2017

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) Discuss the extent to which language is an indexical marker. [15]
- b) With the aid of examples, critically discuss the relationship between language and society. [15]

QUESTION 2

- a) Language policies are conduit pipes through which inequalities are perpetuated in language communities. Drawing examples from any language community of your choice, briefly discuss the extent to which this is true. [15]
- b) The concept of diglossia is viewed as socially, politically and culturally oppressive. To what extent do you agree with this view? [15]

SECTION B

QUESTION 3

With the aid of examples critically discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the standardisation of English as a global language. [30]

QUESTION 4

Pidginized varieties of language are viewed by many as corrupt and ungrammatical, and as indicating that their speakers are lazy or inferior. Using any pidginized variety that you are familiar with as evidence, how might you show people who hold such views how wrong they are? [30]