

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER
JULY, 2017

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE MEANING AND USE

COURSE CODE: IDE-ENG 203

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. This paper has four (4) questions.**
- 2. Question 1 is compulsory.**
- 3. Choose one other question from Question 2 to 4.**
- 4. All questions are worth 30 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) Name the sense relation exemplified in each of the following pairs of sentences:

- (i) Adjectives and adverbs are difficult to understand in isolation.
It is not easy to understand adjectives and adverbs when they occur in isolation.
- (ii) John got married last year.
John is a bachelor.
- (iii) Paul bought a car from Vusi.
Vusi sold a car to Paul.
- (iv) The bricks are red.
The bricks are not white.
- (v) Mr. Shongwe was my teacher.
Mr. Shongwe is a child.

[10 marks]

(b) Examine the following sentences. Each contains a word/ phrase that has been used metaphorically. Identify these metaphorical words/ phrases, and give their meanings.

- (i) John is a snake in the grass. [2 marks]
- (ii) Walls have ears. [2 marks]
- (iii) I will never go to that hospital again; the doctors are butchers. [2 marks]
- (iv) He drags up old conflicts. [2 marks]
- (v) Life is a journey. [2 marks]

(c) Using semantic features and the principle of compositionality, explain the oddness of the following sentences:

- (i) The television drank my water. [5 marks]
- (ii) His dog writes poetry. [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

- (a) Identify and explain the thematic roles of any five noun phrases in the sentence:

With her new golf club, Anne Marshall whacked the ball from the wood to the grassy area near the hole and she suddenly felt invincible. [10 marks]

- (b) Draw a hierarchical diagram illustrating the hyponymous relations of the following words: birds, animals, mammals, butterfly, vulture, owl, insects, primates, moths, and cows. [10 marks]

- (c) Discuss three reasons why words can be synonymous. Use examples to illustrate your answer. [10 marks]

QUESTION 3

Explain what is meant by the terms below. Use examples to illustrate your answer.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| (a) Ambiguity | [5 marks] |
| (b) Social distance | [3 marks] |
| (c) Opting Out Choice strategy | [5 marks] |
| (d) The pragmatic force of an utterance | [5 marks] |
| (e) Implicature | [3 marks] |
| (f) Coreference | [3 marks] |
| (g) Stereotypes | [3 marks] |
| (h) Group antonymy | [3 marks] |

QUESTION 4

Discuss in detail Grice's (1975) Cooperative principle. [30 marks]