

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES /INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

MAIN EXAMINATION – DECEMBER 2017

- COURSE TITLE** : **PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS**
- COURSE CODE** : **ENG 403 /IDE-ENG 403**
- DURATION** : **TWO HOURS**
- INSTRUCTIONS** :
- i) This question paper consists of four questions.
  - ii) Answer two questions in total, question one and any other.
  - c) All questions are worth 30 marks each.
  - d) 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**

## **QUESTION 1- COMPULSORY**

Standard English is defined as "... that variety of English which is usually used in print, and which is normally taught in schools and to non-native speakers learning the language. It is also the variety which is normally spoken by the educated people and used in news broadcasts and other similar situations. ..." (Wardhaugh, 2006, p.35)

- a) What does this definition imply about standard languages? [5 marks]
- b) To what extent do you agree with the assertion that any language deemed standard is a created construct, an idealisation that exists in the mind of people? [ 10 marks]
- c) Using Swazi English as an example, discuss the defining characteristics of the New Varieties of English. [15 marks]

## **QUESTION 2**

- a) What is a pidgin language? [5 marks]
- b) What is a creole? [ 5 marks]
- c) With the aid of examples, differentiate a pidgin from a 'full' language in terms of vocabulary and grammatical structure. [10 marks]
- d) Speakers of pidgins have been labelled lazy imbeciles. Using tsotsitaal as an example, discuss the truth of such a label. [10 marks]

### QUESTION 3

With the aid of examples, discuss the extent to which language is an indexical marker. [30 marks]

### QUESTION 4

- a) What do you understand by the term “linguistic landscapes”? [5 marks]
  
- b) Discuss the nature of signage in and around the Kwaluseni campus and indicate what it tells you about the activities that happen in and around this campus. [10 marks]
  
- c) In multilingual signage, what does the top-most language indicate about the languages of a country? [5 marks]
  
- d) With close reference to multilingual signage, would you agree with Tollefson (1991) that planning language is planning inequality? [10 marks]