UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES /INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION –JULY, 2018

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, <u>question one and any other.</u>

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

Swabians split their words up

The Franks run them together

The Bavarians tear them to pieces

The Thuringians open them up

(excerpt from Der Renner by Hugo von Trimberg (1300), cited by Barbour and Stevenson 1990:57-8)

a) What do the above extracts reveal about spoken forms of language?

[10 marks]

b) Theoretical literature on intra speaker variation claims that this kind of variation occurs when a speaker has more than one grammar in his her mind and that the final utterance is determined by the context. What does this tell you about contextual variation? Draw your examples from your experiences with different contexts. [20 marks]

QUESTION 2

a) What do you understand by the term "dialect continuum"? [5 marks]

b) What do you understand by style being arranged on a continuum?

[5 marks]

c) Using the Nguni cluster of languages in Southern Africa, critically discuss the criteria Bell (1976) finds useful in distinguishing languages from others and from dialects. [20 marks]

QUESTION 3

The criteria of mutual intelligibility, geographical location and nationality have been used to determine whether speakers are speaking a dialect or a language. Using English as an example, critically discuss the extent to which these criteria are appropriate in deciding whether you are using a dialect of English or English language in communication.

QUESTION 4

a) What do you understand by:

   i)   Status planning   [5 marks]

   ii)   Corpus planning   [5 marks]

   iii) Acquisition planning   [5 marks]

b) Discuss the role of language ideologies and attitudes in language planning.

[15 marks]