

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DECEMBER, 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. Question 1 is worth thirty (30) marks, and Questions 2 to Question 4 are worth twenty (20) 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) With the aid of examples, explain what is meant by the following concepts:

- | | | |
|-------|------------|-----------|
| (i) | Synonymy | [2marks] |
| (ii) | Paraphrase | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | Polysemy | [2 marks] |
| (iv) | Sense | [2 marks] |
| (v) | Reference | [2 marks] |

(b) Explain the thematic roles of the following items written in bold:

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
| (i) | The man killed a snake. | [4marks] |
| (ii) | I am going to town . | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | She felt a sharp pain on her belly. | [2 marks] |
| (iv) | She decorated her doll with ribbons . | [2 marks] |

(c) Write five grammatical structures that can be used as deictic elements. [5 marks]

(d) Explain briefly how the following grammatical structures can be used to indicate the different types of deixis:

- | | | |
|------|----------|-------------|
| (i) | Pronouns | [2 ½ marks] |
| (ii) | Adverbs | [2 ½ marks] |

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

(a) Discuss at least three (3) reasons why words may be synonymous in English. Illustrate your answer using examples.

[15 marks]

(b) Give the meanings of the following utterance when uttered during a war: "Tell the men to move out!"

[2 marks]

(c) What is the difference between an utterance and a sentence?

[3 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 3

(a) Define the following terms:

- (i) Pragmatic competence [2 marks]
- (ii) Grammatical competence [2 marks]
- (iii) Linguistic competence [2 marks]

(b) Briefly explain what pragmatic failure is, and cite three instances in which it can occur in discourse. [5 marks]

(c) Read the following conversation between a parent and a child. The child has just made coffee for her mother.

Parent: Is this coffee sugared?

Child: I don't think so. Does it taste as if it is?

Answer the following questions based on the conversation:

- (i) In the conversation above, pragmatic failure has occurred. Briefly explain what caused this failure. [2 marks]
- (ii) What was the intended effect of the parent's utterance? [2 marks]
- (iii) Write the appropriate response that the child was supposed to give to her parent's question. [2 marks]
- (iv) What is likely to be the situational context of the above discourse? [3 marks]

[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]

QUESTION 4

(a) (i) Explain what is meant by ambiguity. [2 marks]

(ii) Discuss the type of ambiguity that is revealed in the following sentence:

The lady hit the child with a toy. [8 marks]

(b) Name the types of speech acts represented by the utterances below. Give reasons for your answer.

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| (i) | I promise I'll sit in the front row now. | [2 marks] |
| (ii) | Put out that cigarette! | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | Come for dinner tonight. | [2 marks] |
| (iv) | You dare touch that girl, you will see what will happen to you! | [2 marks] |
| (v) | I am sorry about what happened yesterday. | [2 marks] |

[Total: 20 Marks]