

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI



Faculty of Humanities
Department of English Language and Literature

MAIN EXAMINATION – NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

COURSE TITLE : PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE : ENG 411/IDE ENG 403

DURATION : TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR QUESTIONS.
ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN TOTAL; QUESTION ONE
AND ANY OTHER

ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 30 MARKS EACH

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE
INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION 1

- a) Most post-independence language policies of many African nations embrace diversity and the development and promotion of African languages. However, to date most indigenous African languages lag behind in terms of development and promotion. Explain why this is so. [15 marks]
- b) Out of the four ideological goals of the language policy and language planning (LPLP), which one(s) do you think have been achieved by the language policy of Eswatini? Give reasons for your answer. [10 marks]
- c) Predict the direction that was taken by the language policy of Eswatini. [5 marks]

QUESTION 2

- a) Briefly explain why speech communities standardize languages. [10 marks]
- b) Describe the challenges that are likely to be faced by the people tasked with the responsibility of standardizing languages. [10 marks]
- c) Explain how the standardization process is a form of political control at all its stages. [10 marks]

QUESTION 3

- a) Describe how speakers acquire a dialect. Your claims should be supported with examples. [10 marks]
- b) Explain the various social factors that influence a language user's linguistic behavior. [10 marks]
- c) Differentiate between a language, dialect and sociolect using examples from English to support your answer. [10 marks]

QUESTION 4

- a) With reference to any two linguistic communities in Africa describe the characteristics of a diglossic/triglossic situation. [15 marks]
- b) To what extent do you agree that the language situation of Eswatini is diglossic and that of Kenya is triglossic? [15 marks]