

**UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI**



**Faculty of Humanities/ Institute of Distance Education  
Department of English Language and Literature**

**MAIN EXAMINATION – APRIL, 2021**

**COURSE TITLE : PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLINGUISTICS**

**COURSE CODE : ENG 411/IDE-ENG 411/403**

**DURATION : TWO HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS : THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR QUESTIONS.**

**ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN TOTAL**

**ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 30 MARKS EACH**

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## QUESTION 1

Study the table below and answer the question that follows:

The Swati barometer data reveals diverse nationalities residing in Eswatini as shown in Figure 1 below.

Country of birth	Total population	Percentage
Eswatini	984520	96
Botswana	81	0.010
Lesotho	184	0.02
Mozambique	10792	1.06
South Africa	11526	1.13
Other African States	3319	0.3
Asia	1102	0.11
United States of America and Canada	227	0.02
Europe	777	0.08
Rest of the world	211	0.02
Not stated	4752	0.46
Total	1017491 /1328697 current population [2017]	100%

Figure 1: The Resident Population in Eswatini by country of birth (Sourced from Swaziland Statistics office, 2007)

According to the Constitution of Eswatini (2005, p. 3) “[t]he official languages of Eswatini are siSwati and English.” You are a sociolinguist, conversant in language and society issues, critically analyse the language policy of Eswatini.

**TOTAL [30 marks]**

## QUESTION 2

- With the aid of examples from English, distinguish between a dialect and a language. (10 marks)
- How does a dialect achieve the status of being a language (5 marks)

c) Peter Trudgill has noted that “increased geographical mobility during the course of the twentieth century led to the disappearance of many dialects and dialect forms through a process we can call dialect levelling – the levelling out of differences between one dialect and another” (2000, p.155).

(i) Do you think that “dialect levelling” is continuing in the geographical area you are most familiar with? Give reasons for your answer.

(5 marks)

(ii) What other forces might be at work that would cause new dialects to emerge?

(10 marks)

**TOTAL**

**[30 marks]**

### **QUESTION 3**

Read the following excerpt, and answer the questions that follow:

**Prophet Shepherd Bushiri: Preacher 'millionaire pastor' Bushiri, wife Mary multi-million dollar mansion dey seized South Africa court**

19 November 2020



Shepherd Bushiri get plenty followers for South Africa

**Prophet Shepherd Bushiri millionaire Malawian preacher for South Africa and im wife Prophetess Mary don enta fresh palava.**

One judge for South Africa don order make dem seize dia house lose afta dem jump bail.

Di house wey dey near di capital Pretoria worth 5.5m South Africa rand (\$350,000: £260,000), according to local tori.

Di judge order di couple to hand over di title deed of di property when court grant dem bail on top accuse of moni laundering and fraud.

Dis dey come afta di popular Christian pastor wey dey face charges of 419 and moni laundering for South Africa japa go im home kontri for Malawi.

Meanwhile Court for Malawi don free prophet Shepherd Bushiri and im wife afta dia arrest earlier today.

South Africa still dey demand say Bushiri and im wife Mary must return to Pretoria to face case of alleged magomago afta dem jump bail rung go Malawi.

Prophet Shepherd Bushiri and im wife Prophetess Mary Bushiri don deny di accuse, over di weekend, e explain for post dem drop for dia social media account say dem dey Malawi, because of safety and security concerns.

(Adopted from BBC News, Pidgin, 19 November, 2020)

- a) Explain the processes of pidginization and creolization. (10 marks)
- b) Identify and describe the characteristic forms and structures that are divergent from Standard English (20 marks)
- TOTAL [30 marks]**

#### QUESTION 4

- a) Explain the differences between a lingua franca and a language used as an international language. (10 marks)
- b) Consider the following statements about Standard English and try to decide whether you agree or disagree with them, providing a reason in each case for your decision.
- (i) Standard English is a dialect of English
  - (ii) Standard English is the English language
  - (iii) Standard English is an accent.
  - (iv) Standard English is a speech style.
  - (v) Standard English is a set of rules for correct usage.
- 1 mark each = (5 marks)
- c) To what extent do you agree that there is no Standard English? Support your answer by means of examples. (15 marks)

**TOTAL [30 marks]**