



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY
University Examinations for 2021/2022 Academic Year
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES
FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF ARTS

AEN 100: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

DATE: 2/2/2022

TIME: 8.30-10.30 AM

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and Any Other Two Questions

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY (30 MARKS))

- a) Briefly explain four features of human language. (8 marks)
- b) Explain any two reasons why the question of the origin of language is difficult to answer. (4 marks)
- c) Differentiate between:
- i. Diachronic versus synchronic linguistics
 - ii. Prescriptive vs descriptive linguistics (8 marks)
- d) Explain the relation between language and:
- i. Psychology
 - ii. Sociology (4 marks)
- e) Describe the two types of aphasia (6 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

The origin of language has been inadequately explained. Critically examine any **four** theories that explain the origin of language.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Explain the following levels of linguistics showing how they relate to the study of language

- a) Phonetics and Phonology
- b) Syntax and Morphology
- c) Semantics and Pragmatics
- d) Sociolinguistics and Discourse analysis

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

What are language universals? Identify four and explain them.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain any **two** characteristics of animal languages (4 marks)
- b) Describe why the study of language is considered scientific (6 marks)
- c) Using raw data explain the procedure you will follow to study language (10 marks)