



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2021/2022 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

..... YEAR .....SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

**AEN 407: LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY AND LANGUAGE CLASSIFICATION**

**DATE:**

**TIME:**

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## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and Any Other Two Questions

### QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Describe the contribution of Joseph Greenberg to the history of Linguistic Typology (4 marks)
- b) Explain the following approaches to the study of language typology (6 marks)
- Formal approach
  - Functional approach
- c) Distinguish between the following types of universals (8 marks)
- Formal vs substantive
  - Absolute vs non-absolute
- d) Using appropriate examples explain the following terms (4 marks)
- Language typology
  - Language family

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain any **FOUR** general universal principles about language (4 marks)
- b) Using appropriate hypothesis, explain the reasons for language universals (16 marks)

**QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss the comparative method of classifying language genealogically.

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

- a) Describe any **FIVE** families of African languages (10 marks)
- b) Distinguish the structural linguistics characteristics in them. (10 marks)

**QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)**

- a) Describe the following concepts in relation to classification of languages: (8 marks)
  - i. Language borrowing
  - ii. Language variation
  - iii. Language change
- b) Explain the different types of language borrowing (12 marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

Discuss any four types of language basing on the following classification

- a) Analytic languages
- b) Sythetic languages
- c) Agglutinative languages
- d) Polysynthetic languages