



# MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations for 2021/2022 Academic Year

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF ARTS

AEN 301: DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

DATE: 22/8/2022

TIME: 2.00-4.00 PM

---

## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and Any Other Two Questions

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

Read the following discourse segment and then answer the questions that follow.

JOHN: Ah, come in, Ms. Rono. Please take a seat

RONO: Thank you.

JOHN: You'd like to work as a model – is that right?

RONO: Yes I would

JOHN: OK – first of all, could I have your personal details for our records? What's your first name?

RONO: Cynthia – that's C-Y-N-T-H-I-A

JOHN: So that's Ms Cynthia Rono. You are Kenyan I guess?

RONO: Yes, I am

JOHN: And how old are you?

RONO: I'm twenty

JOHN: Uh huh... how tall are you?

RONO: I'm five foot seven

JOHN: Hmm... that's not very tall. We like our models to be taller than that - what colour is your hair?

RONO: Cant you see?

JOHN: Oh, I see. I'm sorry – you've got beautiful hair. And what colour are your eyes.

RONO: Surely you ... mmh – can see that too. Anyway, they are black!

JOHN: All right. Now, Ms Rono, I can't promise you any work – but I've got your details and I promise to contact you if something comes up.

- a) What features of this discourse would make you classify it as spoken rather than written discourse? (12 marks)
- b) From the above discourse, identify at least one
- i. locutionary act
  - ii. illocutionary act
  - iii. Perlocutionary act
- Discourse topic Justify your answer in each case (8 marks)
- c) Describe **four** units of discourse structure identified by the conversation analysts and state why do they consider those units relevant for the analysis of discourse structure? (10 marks)

### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Using any **three** of Grice's Maxims of Conversation explain what is meant to say that Maxims may be flouted for a purpose.

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

Using any **three** of Searle's Categories of Illocutionary Acts discuss the views that there is always overlap in the sentences/utterances that participants in discourse use.

### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- a) What is the 'context of the situation' in discourse? (5 marks)
- b) Describe and exemplify any **five** features of context showing how they help in the interpretation of discourse. (15 marks)

**QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)**

- a) What are the main concerns of speech act theory? (12 marks)
- b) Discuss the role of speech act theory in discourse analysis (8 marks)