



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2018/2019

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DECEMBER SESSION EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

AEN 402: ENGLISH SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

DATE: SCHOOLBASED

TIME:

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question ONE (Compulsory) and Any Other TWO Questions

1.
 - a) Distinguish between the terms semantics and pragmatics. (4 marks)
 - b) Describe the five taxonomies/dimensions of speech acts proposed by John Searle (1989) (10 marks)
 - c) Critically examine the relationship between semantics and pragmatics. Use relevant examples to support your discussion. (16 marks)
2. In semantics, componential analysis is the idea that the meaning of words can be analyzed from the perspective of their basic semantic features or markers. Based on this argument, discuss the componential analysis theory of meaning (20 marks)
3.
 - a) Distinguish between the terms deontic modality and epistemic modality (4 marks)
 - b) Using relevant examples, describe any four possible semantic/participant roles served by arguments in an English sentence (16 marks)
4.
 - a) What are speech acts? Use appropriate examples to support your answer (4 marks)
 - b) Using the relevant terminology of the discipline, distinguish the concepts in the following sets (16 marks)
 - i) Theme and rheme
 - ii) Conceptual meaning and connotative meaning
 - iii) Perlocutionary act and locutionary act
 - iv) Commissives and felicity conditions

5. a) What do you understand by the terms “hypotaxis” and “parataxis” (4 marks)
- b) Describe any four general appropriateness conditions (felicity conditions) that apply to all speech acts. (4 marks)
- c) With clear illustration, discuss any three approaches to word meaning. (12 marks)