



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY
University Examinations for 2022/2023 Academic Year
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES
FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF ARTS
AEN 100: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

DATE: 23/12/2022

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 P.M

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question ONE and any other TWO QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Why is linguistics described as a science? Explain by providing at least two justifications. (4 marks)
- b) John claims that he knows the English language well. Explain any four aspects entailed in this knowledge (4 marks)
- c) Explain and differentiate between the following concepts as used in language study.
 - i. Diachronic Vs synchronic linguistics.
 - ii. Prescriptive Vs Descriptive linguistics. (8 marks)
- d) Give a description on any three areas of the brain that are specifically related to language. (10 marks)
- e) Briefly explain four features of human language (4 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

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

- i. Phonetics and Phonology
- ii. Syntax and Morphology
- iii. Semantics and Pragmatics
- iv. Sociolinguistics and Discourse analysis

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

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

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Language is not studied in isolation. Assess the truth or the otherwise of this statement

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the concept of language universals (4 marks)
- b) Describe any four features that make human languages universal (16 marks)