



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY

University Examinations 2018/2019

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES

THIRD YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ALT 303: THEORY & HISTORY OF LITERATURE

DATE: 15/4/2019

TIME: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer Question One and Any Other Two Questions

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

Evaluate the poem below using structuralist theory

Stanley meets Mutesa

By David Rubadiri

Such a time of it they had;
The heat of the day
The chill of the night
And the mosquitoes that followed.
Such was the time and
They bound for a kingdom.

The thin weary line of carriers
With tattered dirty rags to cover their backs;
The battered bulky chests
That kept on falling off their shaven heads.
Their tempers high and hot
The sun fierce and scorching

With it rose their spirits
With its fall their hopes
As each day sweated their bodies dry and
Flies clung in clumps on their sweat scented backs.
Such was the march
And the hot season just breaking.

Each day a weary pony dropped
Left for the vultures on the plains;
Each afternoon a human skeleton collapsed,
But the march trudged on
Its Khaki leader in front
He the spirit that inspired
He the light of hope.

Then came the afternoon of a hungry march,
A hot and hungry march it was;
The Nile and the Nyanza
Lay like two twins
Azure across the green country side.
The march leapt on chaunting
Like young gazelles to a water hole.
Heart beat faster
Loads felt lighter
As the cool water lapt their sore feet.
No more the dread of hungry hyenas
But only tales of valour when
At Mutesa's court fires are lit.
No more the burning heat of the day
But song, laughter and dance.

The village looks on behind banana groves,
Children peer behind reed fences.
Such was the welcome
No singing women to chaunt a welcome
Or drums to greet the white ambassador;
Only a few silent nods from aged faces
And one rumbling drum roll
To summon Mutesa's court to parley
For the country was not sure.

The gate of needs is flung open,
There is silence
But only a moment's silence-
A silence of assessment.
The tall black king steps forward,
He towers over the thin bearded white man,
Then grabbing his lean white hand

Manages to whisper
“Mtu Mweupe Karibu”
white man you are welcome.
The gate of polished reed closes behind them
And the West is let in.

David Rubadiri

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain three main characteristics of Literature
- b) Elucidate the differences between ‘art for art’s sake’ school and the utilitarian school in Literary criticism

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- a) What is theory in Literature?
- b) Critique Aristotelian theory of tragedy using examples from Sophocles’ *King Oedipus*

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

“‘Postcolonial’ is not a theory. It is a movement.” Discuss the statement supporting your answer with at least two texts from African Literature.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

To what extent can it be argued that ‘Afrocentricity’ is an indigenous African literary theory?