



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2010/2011

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

AEN 100: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

DATE: TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 2011

TIME: 8.00 A.M. - 10.00 A.M.

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer THREE questions only.

Question ONE is compulsory.

Question One

- a) Discuss Four properties of natural human language that make it different from animal communication. (12 marks)
- b) Chimps have been trained to use language, with examples show how they have failed. (5 marks)
- c) Using four human speech organs, show how they have been adapted for speech production. (8 marks)
- d) What are the requirements of an ideal artificial language? (5 marks)

Question Two

- a)
 - i) Which part of the brain is responsible for speech production and comprehension? (3 marks)
 - ii) What are the main linguistics symptoms of a patient who has Broca's aphasia? (3 marks)

- b) Linguistics is said to be description and not prescriptive. Explain. (6 marks)
- c) Explain four features that make linguistics investigation scientific. (8 marks)

Question Three

- a) What are the main concerns of the following branches of linguistics. (6 marks)
- i) Historical linguistics
 - ii) Clinical linguistics
 - iii) Neurolinguistics
- b) i) What is meant by Speech Recognition and Speech Synthesis. (6 marks)
- ii) Discuss the practical application of Computational Linguistics. (8 marks)

Question Four

- a) Give four features of sign language that makes it similar to spoken language, and explain the similarity. (8 marks)
- b) Explain these concepts as used in sociolinguistics. (6 marks)
- i) Speech community
 - ii) A dialect
 - iii) Idiolect
- c) Discuss any three theories or myths of the origin of human language. Which one is more convincing and why? (6 marks)

Question Five

- a) The grammar of a language can be analyzed at five distinct levels. Discuss these levels with reference to English. (10 marks)
- b) Phonetics and phonology are closely related and so is morphology and syntax. Give reasons. (10 marks)

---END-----