



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS
AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

AEN 402: ENGLISH SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

DATE: Monday, 21st November 2016

TIME: 8.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer three questions. Question one is compulsory.

Time: 2 hours

Question One - (Compulsory)

- (a) Explain the following thematic systems and for each give an example of an unmarked and marked sentence. (9 marks)
- (i) Clefting
 - (ii) Passivisation
 - (iii) 'there' insertion
- (b) Analyze the sentence below grammatically and semantically. (6 marks)
- Under the stars, he declared his love for her.
- (c) With appropriate examples discuss five types of presupposition. (15 marks)

Question Two

- (a) Using appropriate features illustrate the procedure of lexical decomposition as a means of determining the conceptual meaning of the following words. (12 marks)
- cow, heifer, bull, calf, lad, kid, child*
- (b) Explain four weaknesses of lexical decomposition. (8 marks)

Question Three

Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of adopting each of the following as the unit of semantic analysis. (20 marks)

- (a) Sentence
- (b) Word
- (c) Morpheme

Question Four

Using example clearly contrast between the following concepts: (20 marks)

- (i) Positive politeness vs. negative politeness
- (ii) Extrinsic modality vs. intrinsic modality
- (iii) Semantic meaning vs. pragmatic meaning
- (iv) Thematic meaning vs. affective meaning

Question Five

- (a) Discuss behaviorism as a theory of meaning. (12 marks)
- (b) Explain four shortcomings of the assumptions of traditional semantics. (8 marks)