



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS

AEN 301: DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

DATE: Thursday 26th November 2015

TIME: 2.00p.m -4.00p.m

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. a) Read the following excerpt and identify five features of conversational analysis
[10marks]

A: Good morning, Angela!

B: Good morning to you.

A: When are you going to Mombasa?

B: Why do you ask?

A: I would like you to carry some parcels to the Mombasa Office

B: OK! I will tell you when I am ready.

A: Now, let's get back to the business of the day. Oh! our meeting!

B: What are we discussing?

A: Allow me to explain. Last week, the Board of Directors visited my office, They seemed annoyed by the slow response workers gave when called upon to work. We are therefore required to hold a meeting and explain these sentiments to the employees.

B: That is alright

A: I don't know if it is but just do it as my request.
- b) Describe any three features of context to be considered when analyzing discourse using examples from the above excerpt. [10marks]
2. Explain the distinction between the following concepts. [20marks]
 - a) Theme and rheme
 - b) New and given information

- c) Locution and illocution
 - d) Thematization and staging
 - e) Constatives and performatives
3. a) Outline 5 features that distinguish between written and spoken discourse. [10marks]
- b) Describe the transactional and interactional functions of language. Give adequate examples. [10marks]
4. Read the excerpt that follows and identify the following cohesive devices.
- a) Reference
 - b) Conjunction
 - c) Substitution
 - d) Lexical cohesion.

Desperate times call for desperate measures, so goes a common saying. These measures, supposedly taken in the name of love, come in many forms, from the covert and bizarre ones such as *kukalia chapati*, to avert ones like physical violence. In these days of mobile phones, perusing a partner's phone and calling 'suspicious' people is also becoming common, resulting sometimes in untold embarrassment and hurt. Why do couples behave this way and how can they safeguard their relationships from such acts? These are many reasons for such behaviour, and they include the following:

Long-term problems: People are driven to take desperate actions when a problem has persisted, and there is seemingly no improvement or an inkling of change. The affected partner feels tired, sometimes hopeless, and might be tempted to try one more thing before throwing in the towel.

Personality/background: To some extent, each one of us is capable of doing something we probably don't imagine we could ever do. However, some people are more likely to take certain drastic actions than others based on their personalities and past experiences. Take the case of suspected cheating for instance. To one person, smashing partner's new iphone or even a car is a big deal, but for someone else in similar circumstances, blood and tears must flow.

5. Discuss Grice's co-operative principles and its relevance in interpretation of meaning. [20marks]