



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2011/2012**

**SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER  
OF ARTS**

**AEN 502 : LINGUISTIC FIELD METHODS**

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**DATE: MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012**

**TIME: 9.00 A.M. – 12.00 P.M.**

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer question 1 and any other two questions

1. Either

Study the sentences below and then answer the subsequent questions.

*Gloss*

- (i) Tedorechtek *To cook fish is difficult*
- (ii) Bedojapuonjber *To be a teacher is good.*
- (iii) Nyasayeni tie (e polo kendo piny) *God is present in heaven and on earth*
- (iv) Jochiendeonge *Spirits are non-existent; Spirits are absent*
- (v) Jochiendeni e odno *Spirits are in that house*
- (vi) Pala ni e mesa *a knife is on the table*
- (vii) Otieno en japuonj *Otieno is a teacher*
- (viii) Otienojapuonj *Otieno is a teacher*
- (ix) Otoyo en le *Hyena is an animal*
- (x) Otoyo le *Hyena is an animal*
- (xi) Atienotedorech *Atieno is cooking fish*

(xii) *AtienorechAtieno fish.*

- (a) Analyse each sentence into its constituent parts and give reasons for your analysis wherever necessary. (15 marks)
- (b) Discuss the form and function of the verbs, if any, in the sentences (ii) to (x) (4 marks)
- (c) What would you consider the significance of including the following sentences in the data for the analysis or understanding of what is going on syntactically in this language (6 marks).
  - (i) The optional part of (iii)
  - (ii) The ambiguous (iv)
  - (iii) Sentences (i); (xi) and (xii)
- (d) Write two phrase structure rules that would capture the general structure of a sentence in this language (5 marks) that a linguistics research that.

Or

Study the following data then answer the questions that follow:

| Ser No | Dialect A     | Dialect B | Gloss  |
|--------|---------------|-----------|--------|
| 1.     | asinus        | Asnos     | Donkey |
| 2      | kalidum       | Kaldo     | Hot    |
| 3      | keira         | Kera      | Wax    |
| 4      | kinerem       | Kenre     | Ash    |
| 5      | diikere       | Dikre     | Say    |
| 6      | koloirem      | Kolore    | colour |
| 7      | kikulus       | Keklos    | Circle |
| 8      | duikere       | Dukre     | Lead   |
| 9      | pilus         | Pelos     | Hair   |
| 10     | staire        | Estaré    | Stand  |
| 11     | strikus       | Estrektos | Close  |
| 12     | Sp:ina        | Espina    | Thorn  |
| 13     | skuitum       | Eskuto    | Shield |
| 14     | plakeira      | plakere   | Please |
| 15.    | furunusfornos | oven      |        |

Note: The two dialects have the same underlying forms with Dialect A having the original structure.

- (a) Discuss all the changes that have occurred in the original sounds in Dialect a (15 marks)
- (b) How do you account for e in (xi) – (xiv)? (3 marks)

- (c) Write formal phonological rules to account for the changes and innovations occurring Dialect B (12 marks).
2. Before going to the field to conduct any field research in Linguistics, the researcher must carefully sample of the various respondents he/she intends to interview. Discuss. (20 marks)
3. (a) When studying an unwritten language, why is it inappropriate to ask a respondent:
- (i) The plural of nouns
  - (ii) The past tense of verbs (8 marks)
- (b) Discuss a more satisfactory approach to eliciting such information (12 marks).
4. Discuss four main contributions of a review of relevant literature as a preparation of field research on non-normal language development in children below the age of 12 years (20 marks).
5. In a detailed outline, provide that main contents of a concept note for a research problem in an area in linguistics of your choice (20 marks).