



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

INSTITUTIONAL BASED PROGRAMMES (IBP) AUGUST 2015 SESSION

EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

AEN 816: LANGUAGE VARIATION AND FUNCTION

DATE: Thursday, 31st December 2015

TIME: 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.

Question One

- (a) Explain the relationship between language variations and function. (6 marks)
- (b) Describe how language may be used as a marker of national identity. (6 marks)
- (c) Provide three factors that may lead to language death. (6 marks)
- (d) How does social network correlate with linguistic variation. (6 marks)
- (e) Distinguish between the following terms (6 marks)
 - (i) Diglossia versus triglossia
 - (ii) Lexical diffusion versus lexical isoglosses

Question Two

- (a) Discuss the distinction between language and dialect showing the difficulties inherent in defining the two concepts. (14 marks)
- (b) Using illustrations, show how the use of English as a national, official and an international language varies lexically. (6 marks)

Question Three

- (a) Discuss the concept of standard and non-standard languages in terms of characteristics and function. (14 marks)
- (b) Gendered speech may be viewed from the difference or domination approaches, explain this statement. (6 marks)

Question Four

- (a) Describe how language use may vary according to the following social variables.
- (i) Age
 - (ii) Social class (12 marks)
- (b) Discuss the defining features of the New Englishes. (8 marks)

Question Five

- (a) Distinguish between social and regional dialects showing their dialectal continuum. (12 marks)
- (b) Describe four differences between black (African American) English and standard American English in terms of grammar. (8 marks)