



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016**

**INSTITUTIONAL BASED PROGRAMME (IBP) AUGUST 2015 SESSION**

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

**AEN 819: PHONOLOGY**

**DATE: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

**TIME: 9.00a.m-12.00p.m**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions

**Question One**

- a) Explain the view that phonology is abstract while phonetics is concrete. (6 marks)
- b) "Nasal place assimilations is a universal process." Illustrate this statement. (6 marks)
- c) Explain the relationship between sonority and segmental strength (6 marks)
- d) Provide a rule notation for each of the following phonological processes. (6 marks)
  - i) Nasalization of vowels before nasal consonants
  - ii) Labialization of consonants before back rounded vowels
  - iii) Devoicing of glides after voiceless plosives.
- e) Transcribe the following, first as a normal and then as a casual rapid utterance. (6 marks)
  - i) The big boys will be coming home this day
  - ii) The good girls are already dressed up

**Question Two**

Critique the concept of phonological universals using any languages that you know. (20 marks)

**Question Three**

- a) "Phonological features are based on parameters of speech production." Discuss the validity of this statement. (14 marks)
- b) Describe the Well-Formedness Condition (WFC) and its effects in autosegmental tone assignment. (6 marks)

#### **Question Four**

Compare and contrast generative phonology versus natural phonology.

(20 marks)

#### **Question Five**

- a) Discuss the role of Maximum onset and Sonority Sequencing principles in syllabification process. (14 marks)
- b) Explain the following functions in Optimality theory. (6 marks)
  - i) Generator (GEN)
  - ii) Constraints Hierarchy (CON)
  - iii) Evaluator (EVAL)