



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2008/2009

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION

ECT 515: LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY

DATE: Thursday, 27th November, 2008

TIME: 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Question **ONE** is compulsory. Answer any other **TWO**.

1.
 - a) Briefly explain what is meant by the term, Pidgin and how it differs from a Creole language. In which category does Sheng fall? (6 marks)
 - b) What factors may have led to the development of Sheng in Kenya in contrast with Tanzania where Kiswahili and English are also both used as media of instruction? (8 marks)
 - c) What is the role of language in nationism and nationalism contexts? (6 marks)

2.
 - a) Discuss with examples the external factors that are significant in language “Maintenance”, “shift” and “death” (10 marks)
 - b) With the use of local illustrations, discuss some of the factors that appear to prevent the effective implementation of Kenya’s language policy of using vernacular as the medium of instruction during the first three years of primary school. (10 marks)

3.
 - a) Discuss the criteria a linguistically diverse country like Kenya ought to follow in selecting an indigenous language for serving as the medium of instruction during the early stages of school education. (10 marks)
 - b) Briefly explain the term “diglossia” by giving examples of instances when it is evident. To what extent can we say Kenya is a diglossic country? (10 marks)
4.
 - a) Using specific illustrations, discuss the relationship between culture and language use. What are the implications of such relationship for second language learning and teaching? (20 marks)
5. “Some aspects of language which make it a powerful instrument in unifying people in a national system may, under certain circumstances, become major sources of disintegration and internal conflict.” Comment on this statement and suggest what kinds of language planning activities are necessary to minimize conflict and maximize unity and involvement in the national system of multilingual countries. (20 marks)
6.
 - a) Haugen (1983) suggests four stages in the process of language planning. Briefly explain each of them. (10 marks)
 - b) To what extent do you think Kenya followed these stages in its policy regarding Kiswahili? Support your answer. (10 marks)