



KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2011/2012

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF
EDUCATION

ECT 515: LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY

DATE: Wednesday, 28th March, 2012

TIME: 9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Question **ONE** is Compulsory. Then select **TWO** other questions.

Question 1

- a) With reference to Kenya's language policy, explain how learning a foreign language is tantamount to learning a foreign culture and how the two are inseparable.
- b) Discuss three types of code-switching and using relevant examples, explain four functions of code-switching.
- c) Discuss five factors that have necessitated advance development of Kiswahili in Tanzania as opposed to the situation in Uganda and Kenya

Question 2

- a) Discuss the classification and distribution of Kenya's African languages, and explain why monolingualism still exists in some communities in Africa.
- b) What do you understand by "Language is a cultural tool"? Using relevant examples, explain the role the school may play in helping learners to use language as a cultural tool.

Question 3

- a) Using relevant sociolinguistic examples, describe the following language related situations, explaining how they develop: Pidgin, Creole, Sociolect, Accent and Dialect.
- b) Discuss five factors that have influenced African countries to continue using the language of the colonizer after independence, and give five reasons why they should not have selected them as languages of instruction.

Question 4

- a) Explain the concept of “center” and “periphery” in the dependency theory. In what way has the dependency theory affected choice of one country’s language policy?
- b) Discuss Skinner’s behaviorist theory of first language acquisition, showing its strengths and shortcomings. In your opinion, do you believe in the postulates of the theory?

Question 5

- a) Language “maintenance”, “shift” and “death” occur under specific conditions. Using relevant examples, cite ten factors that contribute to the existence of the three situations.
- b) Define the terms monolingualism and bilingualism, and using relevant examples, explain the three types of bilingualism that may be found in various communities