



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA

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MAIN EXAMINATION

MAY – JULY 2018 TRIMESTER

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND COMMUNICATION

REGULAR PROGRAMME

ENG 401: ENGLISH STRUCTURE AND SEMANTICS

Date: JULY 2018

Duration: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO Questions

Q1. a) Distinguish between the following pairs of terms

- (i) Linguistic and Non-linguistic context
- (ii) Symbol and Index (signification by)
- (iii) Hyperonymy and Polysemy
- (iv) Lexical word and structure word

(10 marks)

b) summarize **five** semiotic systems that are commonly distinguished in semiotics. Exemplify your answer. **(10 marks)**

c) Suppose that you were considering Ms. Mshomoroni for a job that needed good writing skills. You have written to her English language lecturer asking him to assess her performance in this area. You receive the following reply.

“Ms Mshomoroni has regularly and punctually attended all my lectures. All her assignments were handed in on time and were very neatly presented. I greatly enjoyed having Ms Mshomoroni in my class.”

(i) What co-operative maxim does the lecturer seem to flout? Explain.

(3 marks)

(ii) What implicature would you draw about Ms. Mshomoroni's suitability for the job?

(3 marks)

(iii) Which other maxim(s) underlie the co-operative principle?
(4 marks)

Q2. a) Construct **two** sentences using a performative verb of your choice that could produce the perlocution's referred to by each of the following verb(s). Underline the performance verb.

- (i) Scare
- (ii) Warn
- (iii) Placate
- (iv) Inspire
- (v) Persuade

(10 marks)

b) Citing appropriate examples, describe **five** dimensions or types of meaning.
(10 marks)

Q3. a) (i) What is an Argument in semantics? **(2 marks)**

(ii) Demonstrate that a proposition can have between zero and three arguments.
(10 marks)

b) What is synonymy? Justify the assertion that there are no true synonyms in language.
(8 marks)

Q4. Consider the following utterances derived from FM radio presenters in Kenya.

(i) It has been a nightmare month for Manchester United over the past thirty days.

(ii) So you are a career woman and a mother. Do you have any children?

(iii) Send in your competition answers with your name, age and how old you are.

(iv) The robbery was committed by a pair of identifications, both are said to be about twenty years old.

a) Basing your response on the utterances above;

(i) Identify and explain the mistake (if any) in each of them. **(4 marks)**

(ii) By what semantic terms is your response in a (i) above referred to?
(2 marks)

b) With appropriate illustrations, explain the following terms

(i) Synthetic sentence(s)

(ii) Entailments

(iii) Inference

(iv) Paraphrase(s)

(v) Analytic sentence(s)

(14 marks)

- Q5. a) (i) Identify multi-word expressions in language? List **three** of them. **(4 marks)**
- (ii) Outline **three** characteristic features of multi-word expressions. Exemplify your answer. **(6 marks)**
- b) Outline the main tenets of Truth-based semantic theory and clearly explain **two** limitations of the theory. **(10 marks)**

END