



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017

FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

CLE 101: INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

DATE: 14TH DECEMBER, 2016

TIME: 1.30-3.30PM

INSTRUCTIONS

ANSWER QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER TWO QUESTIONS

Q1. (a) Write short explanations of your understanding of the following notions as used in the study of language.

- (i) Objectivity
- (ii) Prescriptive linguistics
- (iii) Competence
- (iv) Creole (12 mks)

(b) “Strictly speaking, there are no organs of speechthe parts that produce speech have other duties” Using examples of the organs in the oral cavity, explain this statement with regard to speech production. (10 mks)

(c) Distinguish between synchronic and diachronic linguistics (8 mks)

Q2. Explain the following properties of human language showing how they distinguish human language from communication cues used by non-human animals

- (i) Creativity (7 mks)
- (ii) Displacement (6 mks)
- (iii) Arbitrariness (7 mks)

Q3. Discuss any two theories that explain the origin of human language highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each of them (20 mks)

Q4. (a) Justify the relevance of language standardization (4 mks).

(b) Clearly explain the stages of language standardization using examples drawn from languages. (16 mks)

Q5. Using examples, clearly explain the difference between the following pairs of notions.

- (a) Declarative and interrogative sentences
- (b) Derivational and inflectional morphemes
- (c) Homonymy and hyponymy
- (d) Language and dialects
- (e) Endoglossic and exoglossic language policies (20 mks)

Q6. Using clear examples of his contribution show why Ferdinand de Saussure is regarded as the father of linguistics. (20 mks)