



MASENO UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2011/2012

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS
(MAIN CAMPUS)**

ALN 808: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Date: 18th April, 2012

Time: 9.00 – 12.00 noon

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INSTRUCTION: Answer any THREE questions

1. a. Critically examine the term sociolinguistics (5 Marks).
b. Account for social, geographical, and functional variation within languages (15 Marks).
2. With reference to language use in society, identify and explain the sociolinguistic situation involved in the following illustrations (20 Marks)
 - i. The phonological differences between American and British English
 - ii. The utterances *wacha kunienjoy* as opposed to *I will see you jioni*
 - iii. A variety of language used in a particular social setting characterized by formality or by socially recognized events.
 - iv. A speech area in which the speakers' successive utterances are alike or partly alike.
 - v. The side by side use of two markedly different varieties of a language in different social situations.
3. With illustrations, explain the connection between language and power from a sociolinguistic perspective. (20 Marks)
4. Applying the procedures of the sociolinguistic interview, clearly explain how you would study the occurrence of /ɪ/ sound among Dholuo speakers of English. (20 Marks)
5. Elucidate the sociolinguistic theory. (20 Marks)