



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS) AND
BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(MAIN CAMPUS)

AEN 305: ENGLISH PHONOLOGY

Date: 2nd April, 2014

Time: 8.30 - 10.45 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.



MAIN CAMPUS
AEN 305: ENGLISH PHONOLOGY
INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions

1a) All the segments except ONE in each set below form a natural class. Identify the ODD one out and state the phonetic property that makes it different from the rest. (10 marks)

- (i) r l m k n
- (ii) p g t s b d
- (iii) s z f v x t f
- (iv) b d g ð
- (v) w o u e ɔ

b. Using the following Chomsky and Halle distinctive features: labial, continuant, sonorant, and nasal, describe the following sounds: (6 marks)

- (i) p
- (ii) m
- (iii) f

c. Study the data below and answer the questions that follow:

girl	girls
book	books
witch	witches
bus	buses
tree	trees
moth	moths

- (i) Make a broad transcription of the data above. (6 marks)
- (ii) Suggest a rule to account for the realization of the regular English plural morpheme. (6 marks)
- (iii) Make a single statement to account for the realization of both the plural affix and third person singular tense suffix. (2 marks)

2. Providing examples from English, distinguish between the following phonological concepts:

- (i) Assimilation and dissimilation (5 marks)
- (ii) Palatalization and labialization (5 marks)
- (iii) Distinctiveness and redundancy (5 marks)
- (iv) Allophonic variation and free variation (5 marks)

3. The phoneme has been defined using three main approaches. Identify and explain each of these approaches with specific reference to English language (20 marks)

4. Discuss Trubetzkoy theory of distinctive oppositions using illustrations from English (20 marks)

5 a) Using a diagram, explain what a syllable is (5 marks)

b) With examples from English, describe the main functions of the syllable. (15 marks)