MASENO UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016

THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MAIN CAMPUS

AEN 311: SEMANTICS AND PRAGMATICS

Date: 13th January, 2016   Time: 11.00 - 1.00pm

INSTRUCTIONS:
- Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

1. (a) Distinguish between Semantics and Pragmatics (10 marks)

   (b) Read the following extract and answer the following questions

   The Chancellor will then rise and confer DEGREES by saying
   I confer upon you the respective DEGREES on the Technical University of Rwanda and by the powers in bestowed upon me, give you the authority to read and do all that appertains to your respective DEGREES.
   Then the graduates will all turn the TASSEL from RIGHT to LEFT, then bow (for men) and curtsey for (ladies) and resume their seats.

   Using the above information, explain the following concepts
   (i)   Locutionary acts
   (ii)   Illocutionary acts
   (iii)   Perlocutionary acts
   (iv)   Felicity conditions
   (v)   Misfires

                                                                    (20 marks)

2. Distinguish the following semantic theories and highlight their weaknesses
   (i)   Mentalist Theory and Behaviorist theory
   (ii)   Componential Analysis and Ostensive Theory of meaning
   (iii)   User Theory and Referential Theory of Meaning   (20 marks)

3. Using the following data, explain the concept of sense relations
   (i)   Politician / Statesman
   (ii)   Big / Small
   (iii)   Died/Alive
   (iv)   Receive/Give
   (v)   Chair: a piece of furniture, a person departmental head, to head a session
   (vi)   Row : 1. [roʊ]   2. [raʊ]
   (vii)   Dear/ Deer
   (viii) Bank: River bank, Financial Institution
   (ix)   Beverages: Tea, Porridge, Coffee, Hot Chocolate

                                                                    (20 marks)

4. Using illustrations from various cultures explain the tenets of the Politeness Theory (20 marks)

5. With appropriate examples explain the following types of meaning
    (i)   Conceptual meaning
    (ii)   Denotative meaning
    (iii)   Reflected meaning
    (iv)   Social meaning
    (v)   Thematic meaning   (20 marks)