



**MASENO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016**

**FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE  
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS WITH INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY**

**HOMABAY CAMPUS – SCHOOL BASED**

**AEN 409: PRACTICAL ENGLISH STYLISTICS**

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

Time: 2.00 - 4.00pm

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INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Answer Question ONE and any other TWO Questions**



1. Read the following text and write a systematic analysis of the style used. Emphasis should be laid on what you consider the most significant linguistic features of style, for example the sentence type and structure, inter-sentence linkage, diction and any other linguistic feature. (30 mks)

***Barasa has helped to revive the art of nose pinching as the ultimate insult***

In all cultures, grabbing someone's nose and pinching it, pulling it or tweaking it, is intended to insult, affront, demean and humiliate. In African cultures, when it is done to a child it is less of an insult and more of a disciplinary action that falls short of beating. When it is done to an adult, it is the ultimate insult.

In the celebrated case of Deputy Chief Justice Nancy Baraza and Village Market security guard Rebecca Morara Kerubo, nose pinching- real or imagined- became more than the ultimate insult. In recorded history, there has not been such a potentially life changing act of nose pinching- again real or imagined- outside the duels of Europe and America increasingly fought with pistols.

Besides threatening to blot out Ms Baraza's judicial career, the Village Market drama on New Year's eve has popularized nose pinching as the ultimate insult, even as a joke. In the Village Market nine-day's wonder, nose pinching was everything. Claims that Ms Baraza ordered her bodyguard to shoot Mrs Kerubo (but he refused), that she then went to her car and returned with a gun and threatened to shoot her, pale in comparison with nose pinching. If true, they were nothing more than swashbuckling heroics.

Nose pinching is an art because, apart from delicate manoeuvres, it is also often accompanied by some well-chosen terse words of a warning, or final warning, or of a lesson, counsel, ultimatum, admonishment or reprimand. Sample Mrs Kerubo's claim that during the alleged nose pinching, Mrs Baraza

told her “to know people.” That was a cryptic and poetic way of saying “Do you know who you are dealing with?”

Nose pinching is also an art because it requires superior skills, though anybody can learn them through practice and observation. The Baraza sensation provides very important lessons. One, probably the most important to learn, is that you must take into account your height relative to that of the owner of the nose. It is almost impossible to tweak the nose of a person much taller than you. Even if you are of the same height with the owner of the nose, tweaking requires dexterity. The owner can easily ward off your pinching fingers. Nose tweaking works best if you can catch a person by surprise, such as flinging your hand to catch his nostrils with the speed of a chameleon darting its tongue to catch a fly.

If the nose owner is shorter than you, it is easier. That is why children are so much easier to pinch and pull by their schnozzles. The object lesson is that the pincher should have a nose for sizing up people-for their height and standing (in society) before attempting a squeeze. The owner of the nose matters, just as much as the tweaker, and always there are consequences.

(Adapted from the Saturday Nation, January 21, 2012)

2. Explain the relevance of context in Stylistic analysis. (20 mks)
3. Choice is said to underlie all stylistic elements used in texts. Using appropriate illustrations, explain the place of choice in style. (20 mks)
4. Using appropriate illustrations, explain how any FIVE factors determine language variation.(20 mks)
5. Evaluate Crystal and Davy's notion of the term style (20 mks)