

# JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

# UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS

# 1st YEAR 2nd SEMESTER 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR CENTRE: MAIN

**COURSE CODE: ZLM 2108** 

**COURSE TITLE: FORENSIC LINGUISTICS** 

EXAM VENUE: STREAM: MA

DATE: EXAM SESSION:

TIME: 3 HOURS

### **Instructions:**

- 1. Answer ANY THREE questions.
- 2. Candidates are advised not to write on the question paper.
- 3. Candidates must hand in their answer booklets to the invigilator while in the examination room.

#### **Question ONE: 20 Marks**

"Forcing" the spoken form into the written form when recording witness testimonies can sometimes undermine the development of a criminal case. Elaborate.

## **Question TWO: 20 Marks**

"Institutional interaction is typically asymmetrical, since power and control are located in the institutional participant, rather than being equally distributed"- Coulthard and Allison (2007: 15).

With reference to this statement, explain how powerful groups comprising lawyers, prosecutors, or judges control discourse in court and how power and control are enacted and legitimated in the courtroom.

#### **Question THREE: 20 Marks**

One of two siblings is contesting authorship of a will that is claimed to have been written by their father. You - as a forensic linguist - are called in to authenticate or dismiss authorship of the will. Explain linguistic factors that you will examine when carrying out this task.

### **Question FOUR: 20 Marks**

Account for the intersections between language and the law.

#### **Question FIVE: 20 Marks**

A hooded man breaks into an apartment with the intention of stealing jewels from a wealthy woman. Unfortunately for him, the woman's house is under 24-hour CCTV surveillance. Also, the woman is indoor but separated from the robber by a heavy grill door leading to her bedroom. Desperate to get to her, he aims his gun at the grill-door, shouting orders and cursing. A few days later, 3 suspected men are rounded up for interrogation and identification, but the police have difficulty telling which man was involved in the crime.

Clearly explain how a forensic phonetician would obtain language evidence from this narrative to help resolve this crime.