

JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS, LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN
LINGUISTICS

COURSE CODE: ALN 808

COURSE TITLE: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

EXAM VENUE:

DATE:

EXAM SESSION:

TIME: 2 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

“We cut nature up, organize it into concepts, and ascribe significances as we do largely because we are parties to an agreement to organize it in this way - an agreement that holds throughout our speech community and is codified in the patterns of our language. The agreement is, of course, an implicit and unstated one, but its terms are absolutely obligatory; we cannot talk at all except by subscribing to the organization and classification of data which the agreement decrees.” (Whorf, 1956) Discuss. **(20 Marks)**

QUESTION TWO

Discuss the politeness principles that Lakoff (1973) introduced. **(20 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

“Taboo and euphemism affect us all. We all probably have a few things we refuse to talk about and still others we do not talk about directly” (Gao, C. 2013). Discuss this position in relation to a language community with which you are familiar. **(20 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

“There can be little justification for the language revival if it is merely an attempt, motivated by mistaken pride, to restore a vanished past” (Romaine, S., 2006). Discuss with reference to Olusuba in Kenya. **(20 Marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

The scope of sociolinguistics encompasses who says what to whom, when, where, how and why. Elaborate this view. **(20 Marks)**