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University Examinations 2024/2025

FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

EEL 3101: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Define the term “**Language**” and briefly differentiate language acquisition from language learning (4 marks)
- b) State the word relationship that exists between each of the following pairs of words. In each case, provide another pair of your own (6 marks)
 - i) Quay and key
 - ii) Head and leader
 - iii) Boy and girl
- c) Distinguish between:
 - i) Auditory and articulatory phonetics (2 marks)
 - ii) Semantics and syntax (2 marks)
 - iii) Bilingualism and multilingualism (2 marks)
- d) Giving examples, explain the difference between diachronic and synchronic linguistics (4 marks)

- e) Making reference to the language of the Monkey, briefly give a justification of the invention theory on the origin of human language according to Rosseau (1712-1772)
(4 marks)
- f) Briefly describe **slip of the tongue** and **slip of the ear**. Give examples in each case
(2 marks)
- g) By giving examples, contrast between active and passive articulators in regard to the production of human speech sounds
(4 marks)

QUESTION TWO (15 MARKS)

- a) Discuss the relationship between language and the brain outlining the three areas of the brain concerned with language acquisition
(11 marks)
- b) Describe the **FOUR** articulatory parameters associated with sign language (4 marks)

QUESTION THREE (15 MARKS)

- a) Explain in details any **FIVE** properties of human language
(10 marks)
- b) Discuss how psychology views language learning as a habit formation process
(5 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (15 MARKS)

- a) Discuss by giving examples the **KEY** parameters that qualify a linguistic study to be scientific
(10 marks)
- b) Provide the phonetic symbols for the sounds described below
(5 marks)
 - i) Voiceless velar stop
 - ii) Voiced alveolar plosive
 - iii) Bilabial nasal
 - iv) Voiceless dental fricative
 - v) Glottal stop

QUESTION FIVE (15 MARKS)

- a) Discuss **TWO** strengths and **TWO** weaknesses of the **Divine source** theory on the origin of language (9 marks)
- b) Explain any three rules (**DON'TS**) imposed by prescriptive traditional grammar on written language in its attempt to preserve the purity of language. Give examples in each case (6 marks)