



MACHAKOS UNIVERSITY
University Examinations for 2022/2023 Academic Year
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGES
FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR
BACHELOR OF ARTS

AEN 407: LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY AND LANGUAGE CLASSIFICATION

DATE: 13/12/2022

TIME: 11:00 – 1:00 PM

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question one and any other two questions.

QUESTION ONE (COMPULSORY) (30 MARKS)

- a) Typological classification groups languages into types according to their structural characteristics. With illustrations describe the **three** most famous typological classifications (12 marks)
- b) With relevant examples discuss six ways on which a language expands its lexicon. (18 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Language change is observed when a generation of speakers produces linguistic expressions that differ from those of previous generations, either in form or in distribution. Discuss **four** forms of lexical change.

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

English is a non-tonal language; however, sentence intonation plays a crucial role where the difference in meaning is signalled by the intonation. Use the **four** types of sentence functions in English to illustrate this.

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Investigation into the way in which different languages combine grammatical units (morphemes) within words is the longest-established aspect of typology. Languages assign to a number of basic morphological types. With illustrations discuss **three** divisions of languages according to the degree to which morphemes are fused.

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

The relative order of verbs and objects is often considered to be the most important of typology since not all languages express overt subjects. Qualify the English language as a '**head first**' language.