

AEN 402: ENGLISH SEMANTICS & PRAGMATICS

1a. Which of the following opposites are gradable, non-gradable, or reversive? (6mks)

- i) absent/present
- ii) fail/pass
- iii) fill it/empty
- iv) appear/disappear
- v) fair/unfair
- vi) high/low

b. What kinds of **deictic expressions** are used in this utterance: (4mks)

'I'm busy now so you can't stay here. Come back later'.

c. The following sentences may be lexically or structurally ambiguous, or both. Provide paraphrases showing that you comprehend all the meanings. Hint: There are at least four paraphrases, but some of them require imagination. (20mks)

- i) We laughed at the colorful ball.
- ii) He was knocked over by the punch.
- iii) The police were urged to stop drinking by the fifth.
- iv) I said I would file it on Thursday
- v) Time flies like an arrow

2. Are these underlined words best described as examples of polysemy or metonymy? Explain why. (6mks)

- i) The pen is mightier than the sword.
- ii) I had to park on the shoulder of the road.
- iii) Yes, I love those. I ate a whole box on Sunday!
- iv) The bookstore has some new titles in linguistics.
- v) Computer chips created an important new technology

With relevant examples explain the following aspects of sentential meaning: (6mks)

- i. Tautology
- ii. Ambiguity
- iii. Presupposition

3i. Describe any four types of contexts and explain how they affect the intended meaning of a speaker or writer. (16mks)

ii. With examples explain why utterance meaning is considered as more important in pragmatics than sentence meaning. (4mks)

4a. Identify the **anaphoric expressions** in this sentence.

Dr. Foster gave Andy some medicine after he told her about his headaches and she advised him to take the pills three times a day until the pain went away. (6mks)

b. Someone stands between you and the TV set you're watching, so you decide to say one of the following. Identify which would be direct and which would be indirect speech acts. (4mks)

- a. Move!
- b. You're in the way.

- c. Could you please sit down
- d. Please get out of the way.

With illustration discuss the following major parts areas of semantics: (10mks)

- i) Naming
- ii) concept
- iii) sense
- iv) reference.

5. Explain the semantic ambiguity of the following sentences by providing two or more sentences that paraphrase the multiple meanings. (20mks)

- i) He waited by the bank.
- ii) Is he really that kind?
- iii) The proprietor of the fish store was the sole owner.
- iv) The long drill was boring.
- v) When he got the clear title to the land, it was a good deed.
- vi) It takes a good ruler to make a straight line
- vii) It takes a good ruler to make a straight line.
- viii) He saw that gasoline can explode.
- ix) You should see her shop.
- x) Every man loves a woman.