



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES AND
EDUCATION**

HEC 223/HEN 304: SOCIOLINGUISTICS

END OF FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER, 2018

LECTURER: J. MUZAMHINDO

DURATION: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS

Answer **QUESTION 1** from **Section A (COMPULSORY)**

Answer **any TWO** questions from **Section B**

All questions carry equal marks carry equal marks (20).

DO NOT repeat material.

Write legibly.

SECTION A (COMPULSORY)

Question 1

Deborah Tannen (a sociolinguistics) claims that, to many men a complaint is a challenge to find a solution: "When my mother tells my father she doesn't feel well, he invariably offers to take her to the doctor. Invariably, she is disappointed with his reaction. Like many men, he is focused on what he can do, whereas she wants sympathy." (Tannen 1984:180)

Using the above statement from Tannen, discuss in what ways does women's speech differ from men's speech? Support your answer with relevant and appropriate examples, highlighting Tannen's concept of gender-lects.

SECTION B

Answer any **TWO** questions from this section.

Question 2

Discuss the various factors with which sociolinguists are concerned in studying the relationship between society and language.

Question 3

According to Janet Holmes, "sociolinguists study the relationship between language and society. They are interested in explaining why we speak differently in different social contexts, and they are concerned with the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning". Using the quotation as a basis, discuss three social and geographical factors which influence linguistic behavior.

Question 4

"Speech is a social activity in a sense that writing is not." How far do you agree with this observation? Exemplify

Question 5

Write analytical notes on the following:

- (a) Speech community
- (b) Speech variation
- (c) Dialect
- (d) Social network

Illustrate with appropriate examples.

Question 6

Discuss the major features of the following theorists work in sociolinguistic research:

- (a) Lepage's Acts of Identity
- (b) Milroy's Social Network
- (c) Basil Bernstein's theory on restricted and elaborated codes of language use

Question 7

Sociolinguists have made considerable progress in applying their findings to problems of everyday experience. Discuss, at least two applications which can be made of sociolinguistic investigation to social problems. Exemplify.

End of Paper