



UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SOE)

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

ENG 222: PRAGMATICS

DATE: 3RD AUGUST 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

A public university in Kenya organized a student leadership workshop bringing together students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. During group discussions, participants communicated mainly in English and Kiswahili. Several communication challenges emerged. During one session, the facilitator asked, 'Can everyone submit the reports by tomorrow?' Most students nodded in agreement. However, one student interpreted 'tomorrow' differently and submitted the report late. Later, a student leader remarked, 'It is quite warm in here,' and another student opened the window. The speaker later confirmed this was the intended message.

A participant also stated, 'John has stopped arriving late for meetings,' leading others to assume John had previously been late. Students often used polite expressions when addressing administrators, while administrators used more direct language. Some students perceived the administrators as unfriendly despite their intention to communicate efficiently. Participants concluded that communication depends on context, assumptions, intentions, and social relationships.

Required:

- a) Define pragmatics and explain its relevance to the communication situations presented in the case study.

(5 Marks)

- b) Identify and explain two examples of context influencing meaning in the case study.

(4 Marks)

- c) Analyze the statement 'It is quite warm in here' using Speech Act Theory

(6 Marks)

- d) Examine the presupposition contained in the statement 'John has stopped arriving late for meetings.'

(4 Marks)

- e) Evaluate the role of politeness in the interactions between students and administrators.

(6 Marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Analyze the Differences between pragmatics and semantics using appropriate examples. **(10**

Marks)

- b) Define deixis and identify any three types of deixis. **(5**

Marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Discuss the Cooperative Principle and the four conversational maxims proposed by Grice.

(10 Marks)

- b) Explain conversational implicature and provide one example. **(5**

Marks)

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Examine Speech Act Theory and illustrate the three categories of speech acts with examples.

(10 Marks)

- b) Differentiate between direct and indirect speech acts.

(5 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Analyze five types of presupposition and provide examples. **(10 Marks)**
- b) State two presupposition triggers and illustrate each with an example.
(5 Marks)

QUESTION SIX

- a) Evaluate the importance of politeness theory in intercultural communication. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Describe the concepts of face and face-threatening acts (FTAs).
(5 Marks)