



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2023/2024

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

### EEL 3101: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

DATE: DECEMBER 2023

TIME: 2 HOURS

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** Answer Question *One* (Compulsory) and any other *Two* Questions

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#### QUESTION ONE - (30 MARKS)

- a) Distinguish between phonetics and phonology. (4 Marks)
- b) Differentiate between Syntax and Semantics. (4 Marks)
- c) Explain any two limitations of animal communication. (4 Marks)
- d) Discuss the concepts of Prescriptive and Descriptive Grammar. (4 Marks)
- e) Explain any four functions of language in a society. (4 Marks)
- f) Language is productive. Explain this statement. (4 Marks)
- g) Discuss any two Sub – fields of linguistics. (4 Marks)
- h) What is Pragmatics? (2 Marks)

#### QUESTION TWO – (20 MARKS)

- a) With appropriate illustrations discuss any four characteristics of Human Language. (12 Marks)
- b) Explain why language is defined as a Cultural and Social Phenomenon. (8 Marks)

**QUESTION THREE - (20 MARKS)**

- a) Distinguish between the Human and Animal Communication giving examples of each. (12 Marks)
- b) Kenya is a linguistically diverse country. Discuss. (8 Marks)

**QUESTION FOUR – (20 MARKS)**

- a) Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of any **two** theories on the origins of Language. (12 Marks)
- b) With appropriate examples differentiate between the Free and Bound Morphemes. (8 Marks)

**QUESTION FIVE – (20 MARKS)**

- a) Describe the unique features of a Speech Community giving illustrations. (12 Marks)
- b) Differentiate between Dialects and Idiolects. (8 Marks)