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University Examinations 2022/2023

FIRST YEAR SPECIAL/SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

ELI 3101: THEORY OF LITERATURE & STYLISTICS

DATE: AUGUST 2023

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- a) Give a brief explanation of the following terms:
- i) Literary stylistics (2 marks)
 - ii) Literacy criticism (2 marks)
- b) Explain the reason language is considered the raw material for literature (4 marks)
- c) Explain the value of literature to society (4 marks)
- d) Describe the paradigmatic relationships of the underlined words in the following sentences (6 marks)
- i) I shall see him next week
 - ii) The milk is on the doorstep
- e) Explain the reason each of the following sentences are deviant (4 marks)
- i) Songs in French I cannot allow
 - ii) Of Lords and Earls and Dukes and garter'd Knights
- f) Consider the italicized word in each of the following lines. What other word could the writer have chosen which is synonymous? (6 marks)

- i) From the west
Clouds come hurrying with the wind
Sharply turning
Here and there
Like a **plague** of locusts
(From “An African Thunderstorm” by David Rubadiri)
- ii) The book will guide me
So that I **persist** in loving
My country all my life
(Gikuyu: Mobilization Song)
- iii) It takes your enemy and your friend, working together, to hurt you: the one to **slander** you, the other to bring you the news.
(From Modern American Wit and Wisdom: A Collection. Compiled by Anne Russell Wig’ton. Los Angeles: Random House, 1970)

g) There are instances where a sentence may fit the grammar and yet be unacceptable.

Illustrate

(2 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

Describe both feminism and psychoanalysis as schools of literary theory. Illustrate by referring to relevant texts. (20 marks)

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

a) Explain how syntactic deviation has been achieved in the following excerpt

(4 marks)

‘Thus leant she and lingered - joy and fear’

‘Thus lay she a moment on my breast’

‘Then we began to ride’

(Robert Browning, “The last ride together”)

b) Describe the effects of literary deviation. Use suitable illustrations (6 marks)

c) Explain how written language differs from spoken language. Illustrate appropriately

(10 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

Describe the advantages of polysemy to a literary writer. Refer to specific literary texts to illustrate your answer. (20 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- a) Explain the effect of intentional ambiguity in literary texts. Illustrate your answer by referencing specific genres (10 marks)
- b) Explain why drama is the best representation of both phonological and graphological realizations of language in one genre. (10 marks)