



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017

**FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN LINGUISTICS**

MAIN CAMPUS

ALN 807: SEMANTICS AND SEMIOTICS

Date: 5th June, 2017

Time: 12.00 - 3.00 pm

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.



ALN 807 SEMANTICS AND SEMIOTICS

Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions

1. ~~Meaning is the "holy grail"~~ not only of linguistics but also of philosophy, psychology and neuroscience Jackendoff (2002). Assess the validity of this statement. (30 marks)

2. "Semiotics is the study of signs, their forms of expression and contents" Brandt (2000). Discuss this statement from the perspective of language as a semiotic system. (15 marks)

3. Using suitable illustrations, explain the sound symbolism thesis in Semantics.(15 marks)

4. "All words are related in one way or another", Lyons (1995). Discuss this statement using FOUR different types of sense relations. (15 marks)

5. Discuss the tenets and demerits of the following theories of Pragmatics

(i) Speech Acts Theory

(ii) Politeness Theory

(15 marks)

6. Explain the tenets and criticisms leveled against the following Semantic theories

(a) User Theory of meaning

(b) Prototype Theory of meaning

© Behaviorist Theory of meaning

(d) Referential Theory of meaning

(15 marks)
