



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEGREE
OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS) WITH INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY**

(SIAYA LEARNING CENTRE)

AEN 101: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE

Date: 20th December, 2013

Time: 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.**

(SIAYA REGULAR PROGRAM)

AEN 101: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE

DATE

TIME

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. There are **FIVE** questions in this paper
2. Answer question **ONE**, and any other **TWO** questions

Q1.(a) Using suitable illustrations, discuss the following **FIVE** features of human communication

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| (i) Double Articulation | (3 marks) |
| (ii) Arbitrariness | (3 marks) |
| (iii) Displacement | (3 marks) |
| (iv) Reciprocity | (3 marks) |
| (v) Productivity | (3 marks) |

(b) Discuss the nature and weaknesses of the following animal communication systems.

- (i) The Honey bee (7.5 marks)
- (ii) Chimpanzees (7.5 marks)

Q2. "The origin of language is a contentious issue". Discuss this statement citing the merits and demerits of the following **FOUR** theories of the origin of language.

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|-----------------------------|-----------|
| (i) Divine Source Theory | (5 marks) |
| (ii) Glosso-genetics Theory | (5 marks) |
| (iii) La La Theory | (5 marks) |
| (iv) Human Invention Theory | (5 marks) |

Q3: Using examples, distinguish the following concepts

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| (i) Pidgins and creoles | (5 marks) |
| (ii) Cuneiforms and Hieroglyphs | (5 marks) |
| (iii) Isolating and Polysynthetic languages | (5 marks) |
| (iv) Genderlects and Lingua Franca | (5 marks) |

Q4: With the aid of suitable illustrations, discuss **FIVE** factors that cause language change (20 marks)

Q5: (a) Account for the **THREE** approaches used in language classification (10 marks)

(b) Using examples, assess the debate surrounding languages and dialects (10 marks)