



**MASENO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2015/2016**

**FIRST YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS WITH INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY**

**MAIN CAMPUS**

**AEN 101: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE**

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

Time: 11.00 - 1.00pm

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.



Q1. (a) Using suitable illustrations, explain any FIVE features of human language. (10 marks).

(b) "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

- (i) Divine Source Theory (5 marks)
- (ii) Glosso-genetics Theory (5 marks)
- (iii) The Oral Sound Gesture Theory (5 marks)
- (iv) The Yo Heave Ho Theory. (5 marks)

Q2. Discuss the nature and weaknesses of the following animal communication systems.

- (i) Birds (5 marks)
- (ii) The Honey bee (10 marks)
- (iii) Chimpanzees (5 marks)

Q3: Using examples, distinguish the following concepts

- (a) Ideographs and pictograms. (5 marks)
- (b) Genderlects, Idiolects and Dialects. (10 marks)
- (c) Cuneiforms and hieroglyphs (5 marks)

Q4: With the aid of suitable examples from any language, clearly explain the following concepts

- (a) Language Families
- (b) Inflecting languages
- © Isolating languages
- (d) Agglutinating languages
- (e) Polysynthetic languages (20 marks)

Q5: Discuss SIX differences between written and spoken language. (20 marks)