



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

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

**CITY CAMPUS-SCHOOL BASED**

**AEN 104: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE**

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

Time: 2.00 - 4.00 pm

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Answer question ONE and any other TWO questions.



AEN 101: INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE

Q1 (i) Discuss any FOUR functions of human language using appropriate illustrations from any language. (8 marks)

(ii) Define the concept of language family and describe THREE types of language classification systems (10 marks)

(iii) Explain the nature, strengths and weaknesses of animal communicative systems using examples from any THREE different animals (12 marks)

Q2. Using suitable illustrations, distinguish the following Linguistic concepts.

(i) Arbitrariness and double articulation (6 marks)

(ii) Productivity and Displacement (6 marks)

(iii) Isolating and Agglutinating languages (8 marks)

Q3. "The origin of language is a contentious issue". Discuss this statement citing the merits and demerits of the following theories of the origin of language

(i) Glosso-genetics Theory (8 marks)

(ii) The human invention theory (4 marks)

(iii) The Oral Gesture Theory (8marks)

Q4 (a) Using suitable examples, state the difference between the following terms.

(i) Cuneiforms and Hieroglyphs (5 marks)

(ii) Pictograms and Ideograms (5 marks)

(b) Distinguish any FIVE features of written and spoken language (10 marks)

Q5: Using at least TWO examples, define the following concepts in language studies

(i) Speech community (5 marks)

(ii) Lingua Franca (5 marks)

(iii) Dialects, idiolects and Genderlects (5 marks)

(iv) Pidgins and Creoles (5 marks)