

KISII UNIVERSITY

FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER 2023/2024

End of semester examination

LING 123: SEMANTICS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question one and any other two

QUESTION ONE

- a) What do you understand by the word “semantics?” (2 marks)

- b) What are the contributions of the following scholars to the development of semantics? (12 marks)
 - (i) Michel Breal
 - (ii) Alfred Korzybski
 - (iii) Odgen and Richards
 - (iv) Leonard Bloomfield

- c) Describe the following forms of meaning. (8 marks)
 - (i) Thematic meaning
 - (ii) Conceptual meaning
 - (iii) Associative meaning
 - (iv) Connotative meaning

- d) Explain any four fallacies of misunderstanding in language. (8 marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Explain the following theories of meaning. (12 marks)
 - (i) Ideational theory
 - (ii) Referential theory
 - (iii) Usage theory

- b) Explain how semantics relates to other disciplines. (8 marks)

QUESTION THREE

- Explain linguistic variations that are evident in word order by using the following concepts. (20 marks)
- i) Tautology
 - ii) Paraphrase
 - iii) Ambiguity
 - iv) Entailment
 - v) Analyticity

QUESTION FOUR

- a) With the aid of appropriate examples, show how change in meaning overtime has occurred in linguistic semantics. (10 marks)
- b) Briefly describe the major areas of emphasis in the study of semantics. (10 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

- a) What are the essential features of English words? (8 marks)
- b) Identify any three figures of speech and explain how they enhance meaning in literary language. (12 marks)