



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES
2019_2 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG432
COURSE TITLE: PRAGMATICS
CREDIT UNITS: 3
TIME ALLOWED: THREE HOURS

INSTRUCTION: Answer Any **3** Questions (*Your correct use of language elements will earn You 1 additional mark*)

1. Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Tact (5½ marks)
 - b) Indirect speech act (5½ marks)
 - c) Inference (6 marks)
 - d) Text (6 marks)

(23 marks/60 minutes)

2. (a) Discuss the relationship between semantics and pragmatics (13 marks)
(b) With two examples each, differentiate between semantic reference and pragmatic reference (10 marks)

(23 marks/60 minutes)

3. (a) Read the following passage and based on Leech's (1983) perspective, state the illocutionary functions performed by the italicised utterances in the text for achieving social goals (**8 marks**)

Mr Okoronkwo walked into the room, angry to find some of his staff gathered around in a corner reading a newspaper with the screaming headline: *Nigeria Grabs Gold at Nation's Cup*. His fury knew no bounds when he also sighted Mr Obiyan, the supervisor, perched on Miss Lizzy's desk whispering in low tone. *You are welcome Sir*, everyone chorused as he walked briskly into his office, hardly paying attention to any of them. *Lizzy, come into my office immediately!* He bellowed as soon as he sat down on his seat. "Yes sir", Lizzy responded as she ran towards her boss' office in trepidation. *Do you know I can have you sacked for your irresponsibility lately*, Mr Okoronkwo screamed at

her as soon she entered his office. The other staff listened in apprehension, not knowing what fate also awaited each of them.

(b) Read the following passages. What arguments could be advanced on the following italicized utterances from a presupposition perspective? **(15 marks)**

(i) Hello Mr Adetumobi. *How is your wife? I hope she has graduated from the University of Ilorin now.* (5 marks)

(ii) *Udoka bought another metallic grey car last week.* His parents were quite happy to hear the news. (5 marks)

(iii) Good morning students. *Who has seen Mrs Adio the cleaner this morning?* The laboratory has not been swept. (5 marks)

(23 marks/60 minutes)

4. (a) The use of language involves *doing things with words*. Discuss this statement in relation to Austin's (1962) speech act theory **(10 marks)**

(b) Briefly explain felicity conditions as a pragmatic notion? **(4 marks)**

(c) Discuss Austin's (1962) three categories of infelicities **(9 marks)**

(23 marks/60 minutes)