



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, ABUJA
2023_1 POP EXAMINATION.

COURSE CODE: ENG 432
COURSE TITLE: PRAGMATICS
TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS
INSTRUCTION: Answer Any 4 Questions

1. (a) Critically assess the contribution of Charles Morris (1938) to the development of Pragmatics as a linguistic field of enquiry. (8½ marks)
(b) Briefly discuss three principles of Pragmatics. (9 marks)
(17½/45 minutes)

2. (a) Briefly explain politeness as a concept in Pragmatics. (5½ marks)
(b) Read the conversation below and explain how tact is employed in the discourse: (12 marks)

Husband: Thank you, so much dear. This meal is really delicious.

Wife: Wow, thank you darling. I am glad you like it.

Husband: Oh, it was quite nice. I mean I appreciate all the effort you had to put in to cook the fried rice.

Wife: Not at all. It was quite a delight to prepare the meal.

Husband (says while smiling): Er... I have just one observation though. Did you just buy a new bag of salt dear? I mean, it's like you had a lot of it to use for the rice.

Wife: Oh, you mean the fried rice is salty? So sorry about that dear.

(17½/45 minutes)

3. (a) Briefly explain the term entailment. (5½ marks)
(b) Explain the meanings which the following sentences entail: (12 marks)
 - (i) The man bought a new car last week. (4 marks)
 - (ii) The meat seller has reduced the price. (4 marks)
 - (iii) I didn't eat all of the rice. (4 marks)
(17½/45 minutes)

4. (a) Briefly differentiate between Pragmatics and Semantics. (8 marks)
(b) Explain three goals of the contextual study of language as identified by Dell Hymes (1974). (9½ marks)

(17½/45 minutes)

5a) Austin (1962) postulates that the use of language involves *doing things with words*. Discuss this assertion in relation to his speech act theory. (5½ marks)

b) Identify and discuss with one example each, Austin's (1962) three categories of infelicities. (12 marks)

(17½/45 minutes)