



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
Faculty of Arts
Department of Languages
2020_1 EXAMINATIONS

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

INSTRUCTION: Answer 3 Questions. (*Question 1 is compulsory*)

1. (a) Identify three pragmaticians and state their respective definition of pragmatics (9 marks)
- (b) Explain 5 goals of pragmatics (10 marks)
- (c) Briefly explain the term utterance meaning in pragmatics (5 marks)

(24 marks/50 minutes)

2. Briefly discuss the following pragmatics terms:
 - (a) Linguistic context (6 marks)
 - (b) Institutional context (6 marks)
 - (c) Interpersonal context (6 marks)
 - (d) Socio-cultural context (5 marks)

(23 marks/35 minutes)

3. (a) Explain the pragmatics principle of politeness (8 marks)

(b) Read the following passage and identify types of face acts employed by the participants in the italicised utterances (15 marks)

Adakwu walked into the dining room and saw her parents and siblings already having dinner. “*You are late*”, her elder sister Cecilia said with a scowl on her face. “*I don’t see how that is any of your business*” Adakwu literally yelled back as she pulled a chair to sit down. “*Shut up and don’t be silly. Is that the way to talk to your sister?*” Her mother bellowed. Mr Adolphus, her father who had been looking into his plate since her arrival, whispered to Ogechi, the youngest of the children, “*Could you please pass me the salt*”. Then he turned around and faced Adakwu, “*Don’t you think it’s rather*

late to be moving around the streets of Lagos? If you leave your shop in time, you will also get home in time for family dinner”

(23 marks/35 minutes)

4. (a) Explain the notion of felicity in Pragmatics (8 marks)

(b) Read the passages below and using Austin’s (1962) three categories of infelicities identify and explain why the utterances are not successful (15 marks)

Passage A

Gardener: (an elderly gardener talking to a young lady and her male friend): How are you Teni? It’s been a long time

Teni: I am fine sir. Yes, it’s been a long time indeed.

Gardener: Who is this young man?

Teni: He is Tade my friend

Gardener: Oh? Such a handsome man! When are you going to invite us to eat rice?

Teni (smiling sheepishly): Soon sir

Gardener: That is good. In fact, we don’t need any delay. I pronounce you husband and wife from now on.

Passage B

During the wedding ceremony between Oye and Shalewa, the pastor asked, “If anyone of you has a reason why these two should not be married, speak now or forever hold your peace”. Oye who had been battling impotence for many years, looked down at his feet, knowing he had been unfair to Shalewa by keeping the secret from her. But at the same time he reasoned he was not ready to lose her. Finally, the charged moment came to an end and a few minutes later, the officiating pastor declared, “I now pronounce you husband and wife”.

Passage C

John and Halima entered their new apartment with such excitement; you would think they just won a lottery. They have been away to Dubai on their honeymoon for the last three weeks. Although they were reluctant to leave the serene environment of the hotel, they are also glad to be back to Nigeria to settle down to family life. About three hours later, they sat comfortably on a couch to look through their wedding pictures. John sighted their court wedding certificate in the folder where they had kept it before leaving for honeymoon. He picked it up excitedly and looked at it with joy. Suddenly, his expression changed somewhat, ‘oh, oh... there is a problem here’. ‘What is the matter? Halima asked with some concern as she looked at his face. “Look, your name was wrongly spelt, Haima instead of Halima. Unfortunately, we didn’t see this at the registry.

(23 marks/35 minutes)